

士 郎 正 宗

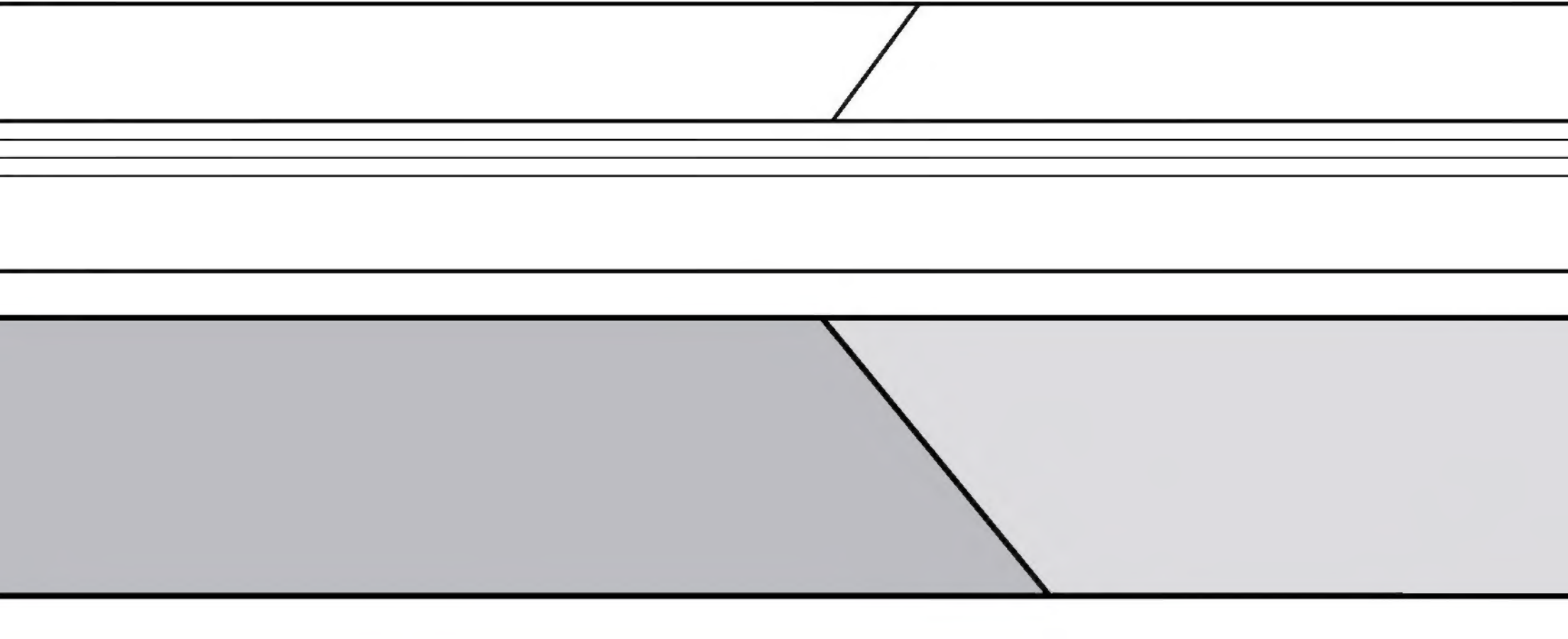
THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

APPLESEED™

S H I R O W M A S A M U N E



APPLESEED™



publisher MIKE RICHARDSON

collection editor CHRIS WARNER

series executive editor TOREN SMITH for STUDIO PROTEUS

designer TINA ALESSI

art director LIA RIBACCHI

APPLESEED™ BOOK ONE: THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE

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士郎正宗 THE PROMETHEAN CHALLENGE
APPLESEED™

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[with DUANE JOHNSON]

lettering by **L. LOIS BUHALIS and JOHN CLARK**
[with TOM ORZECOWSKI and SASQUATCH]

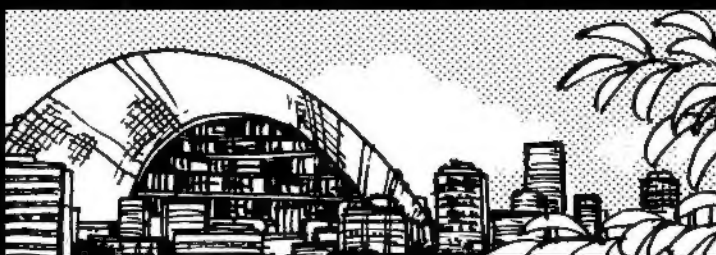


008



[1] TRIPLE HOUND HUNTING

043



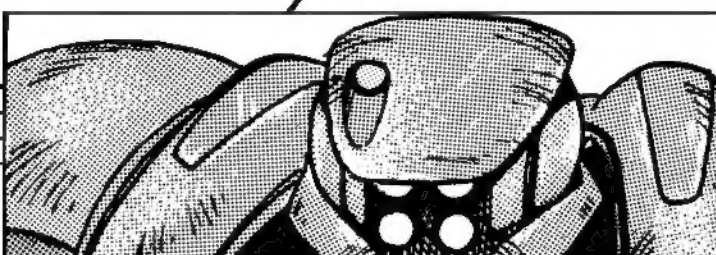
[2] CIVVY STREET

081



[3] EVEN BETS

092



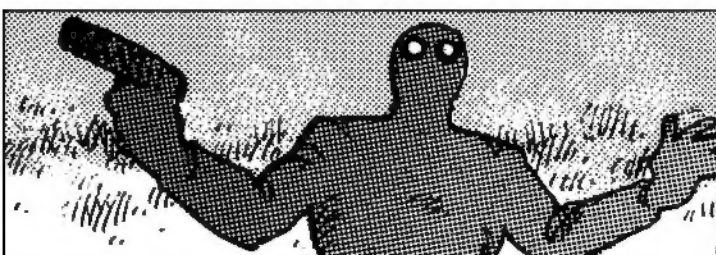
[4] HOSPITALITY

100



[5] HOT POTATO

121



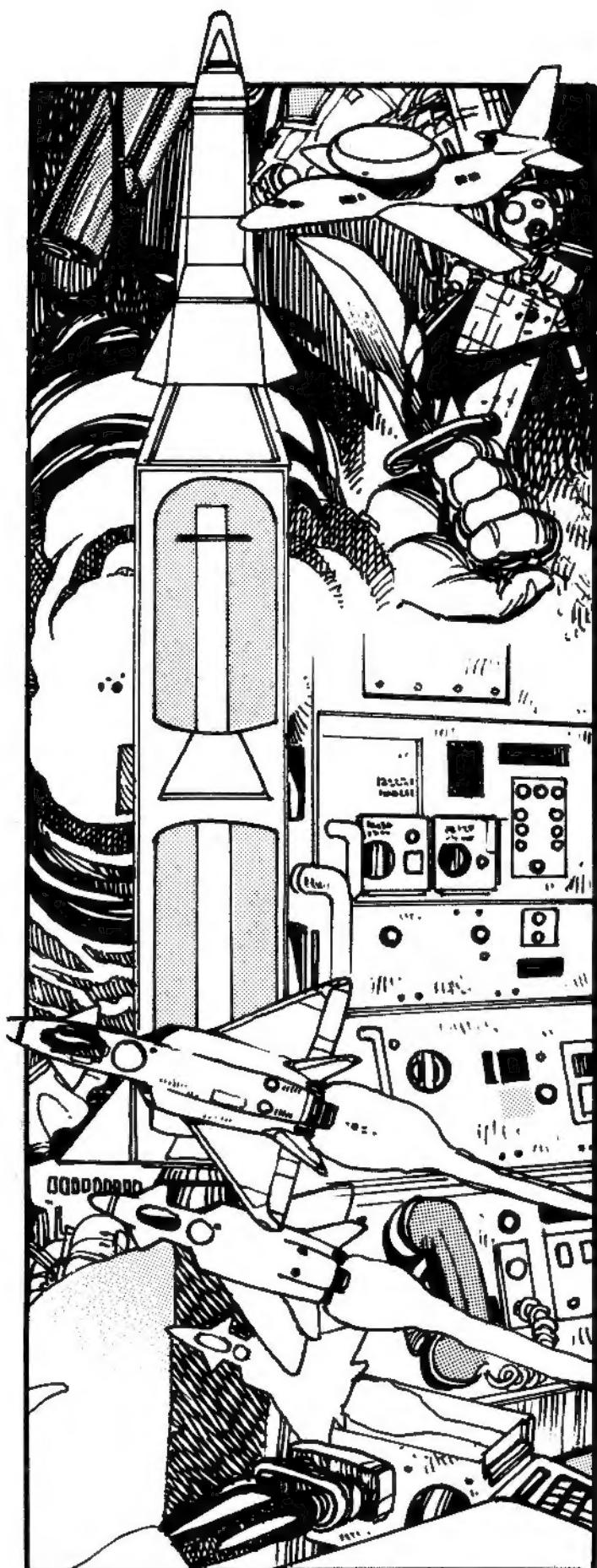
[6] BATTLE OF TITAN

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[7] REST

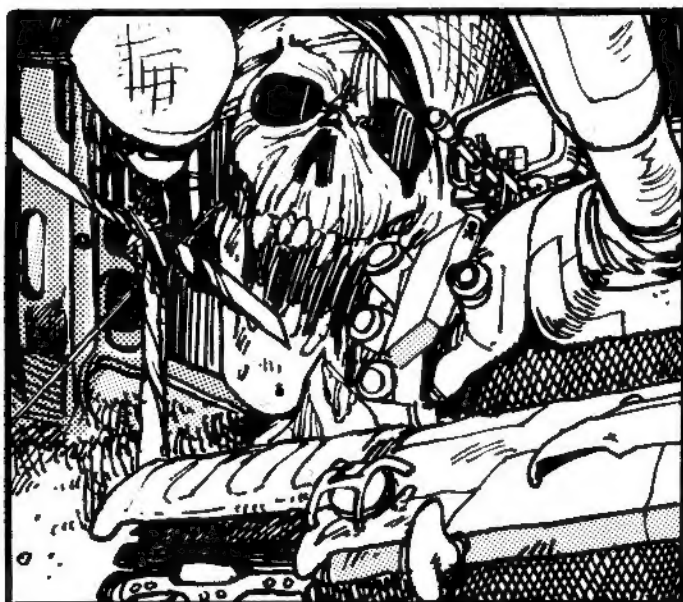
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士 郎 正 宗

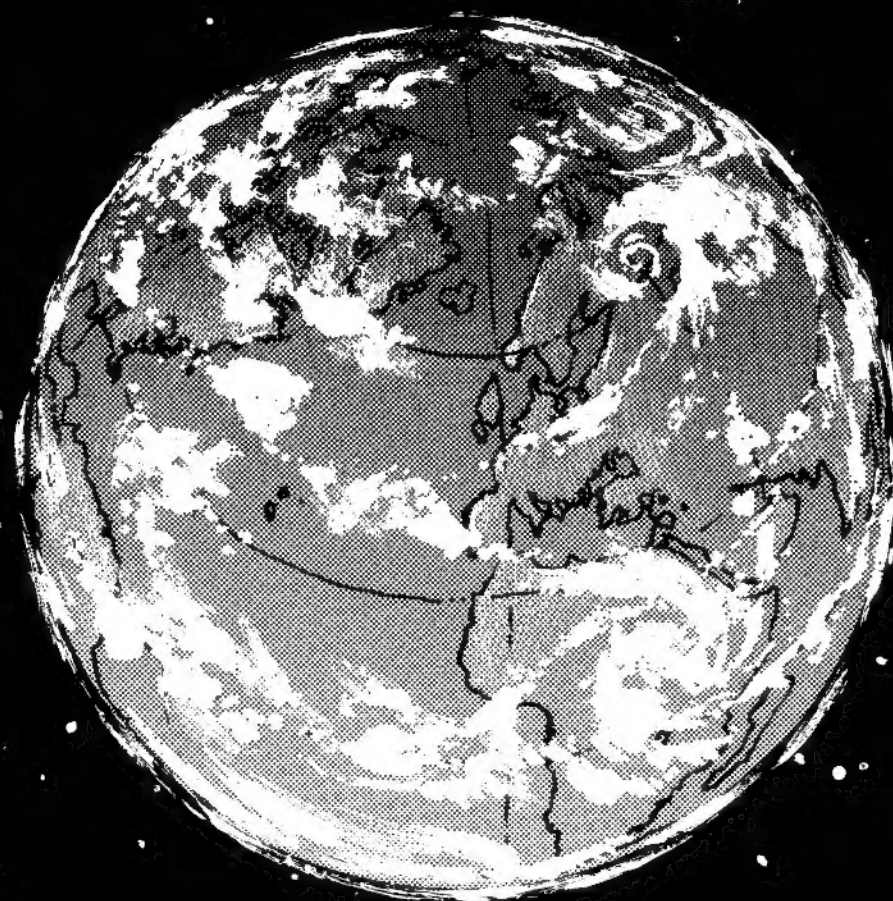
M A S A M U N E



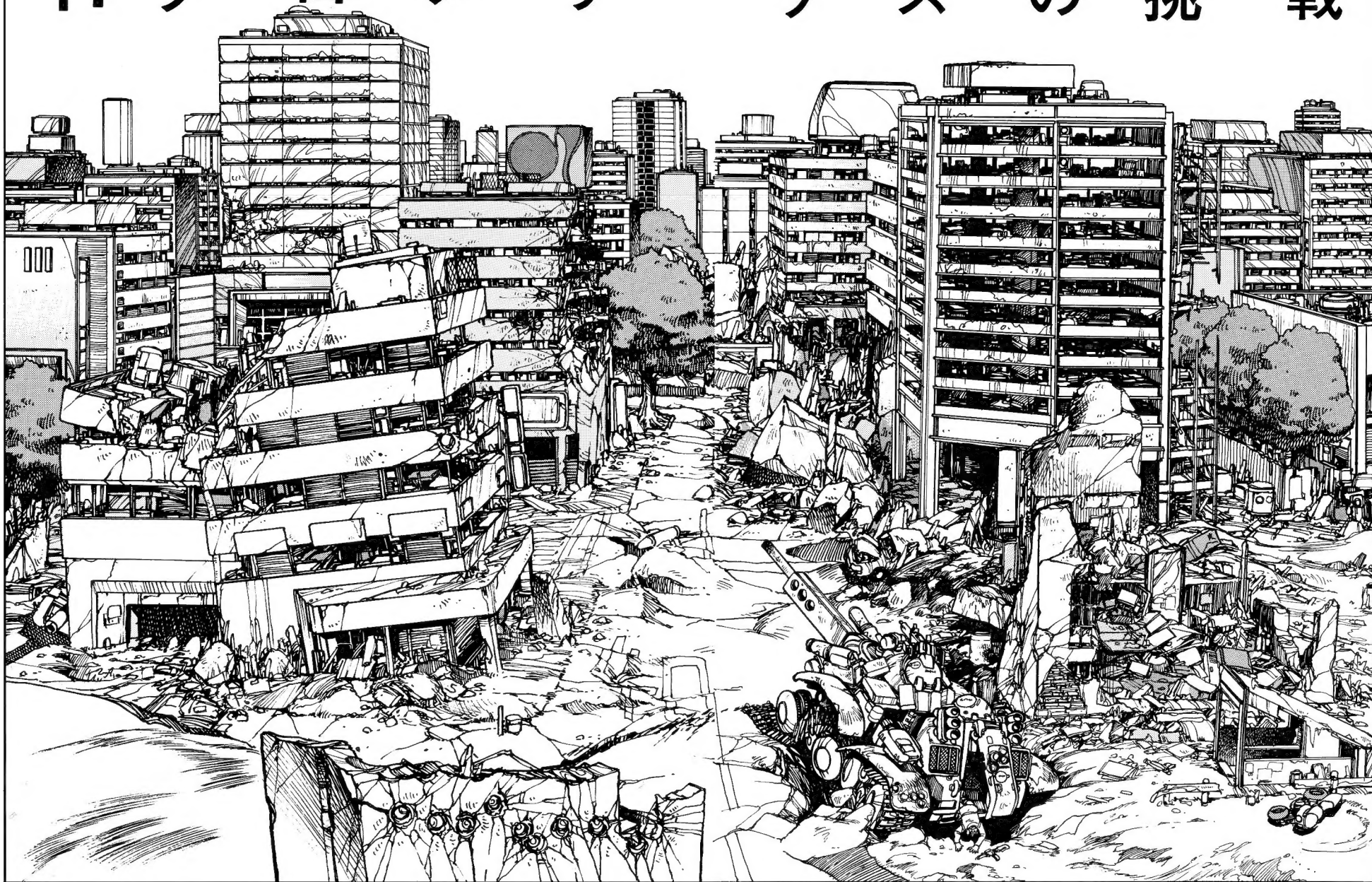
It was in that year that the flames of war
broke out simultaneously in every corner
of the globe. To the vast movement of armies,
conflicts spread, merged, grew, escalating
into world war.

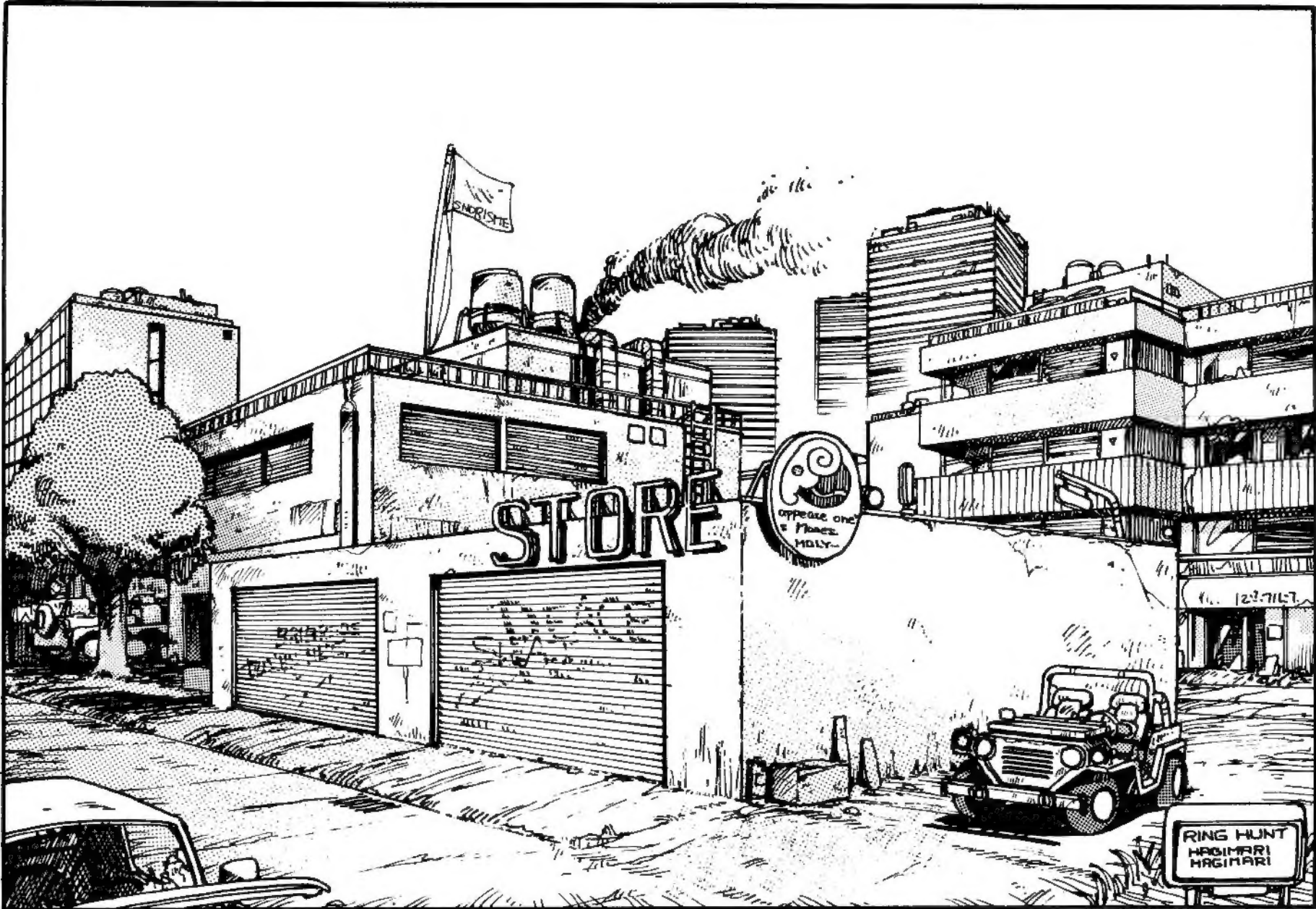
Knowledge was lost. Confusion reigned.
New powers rose to displace the old nations.

Nuclear weapons themselves were never
used. But even without them, the Earth
became a quieter planet . . .



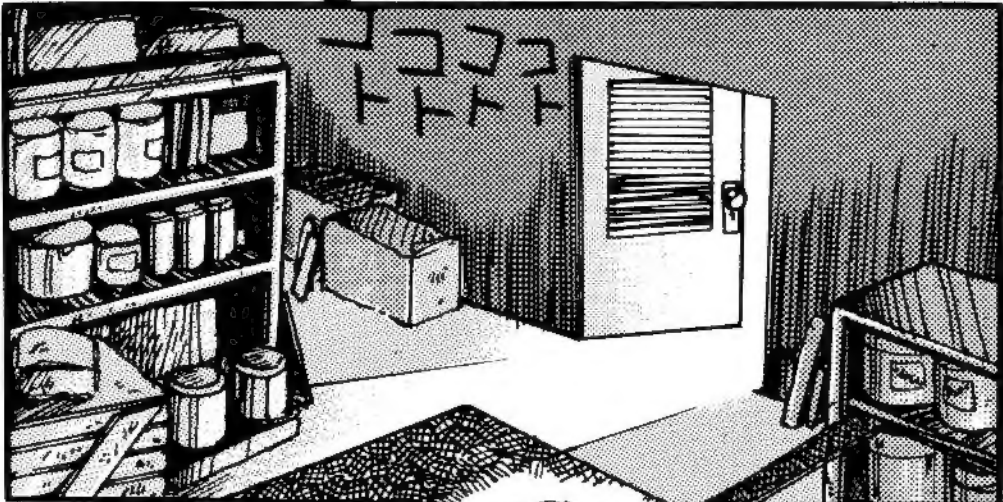
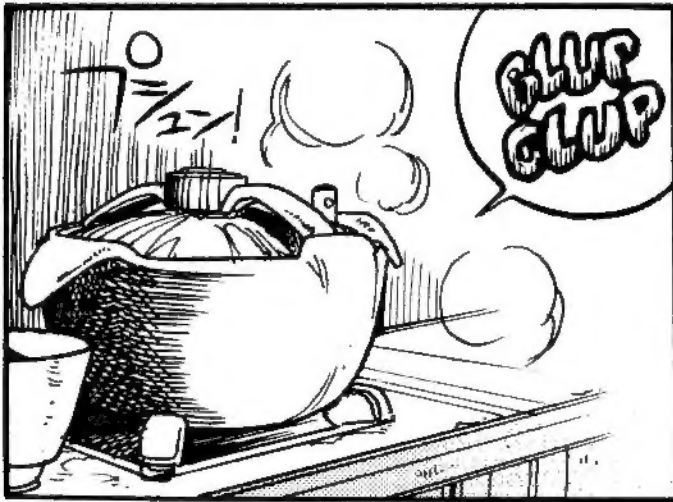
1. プロメテウスの挑戦



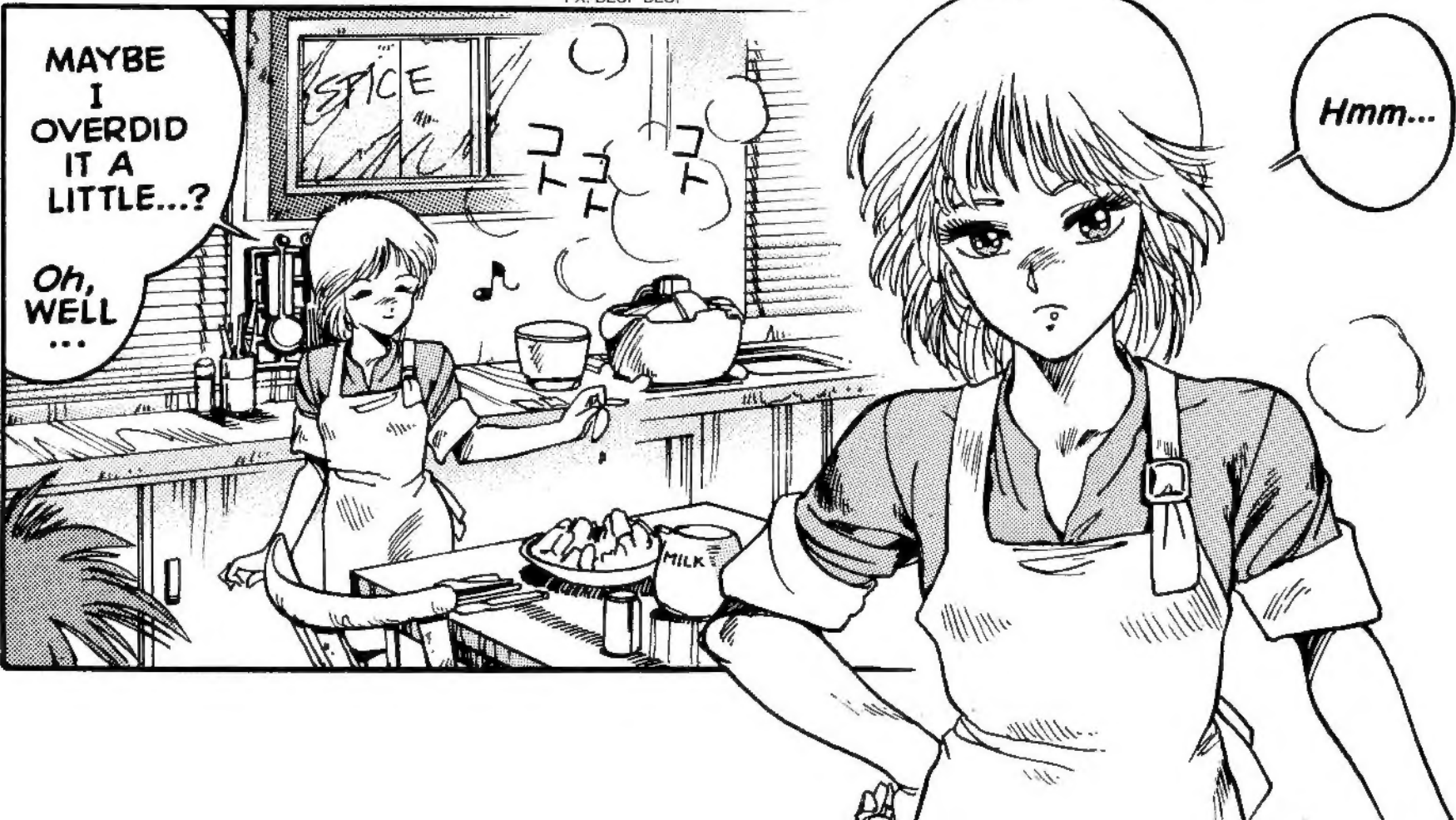


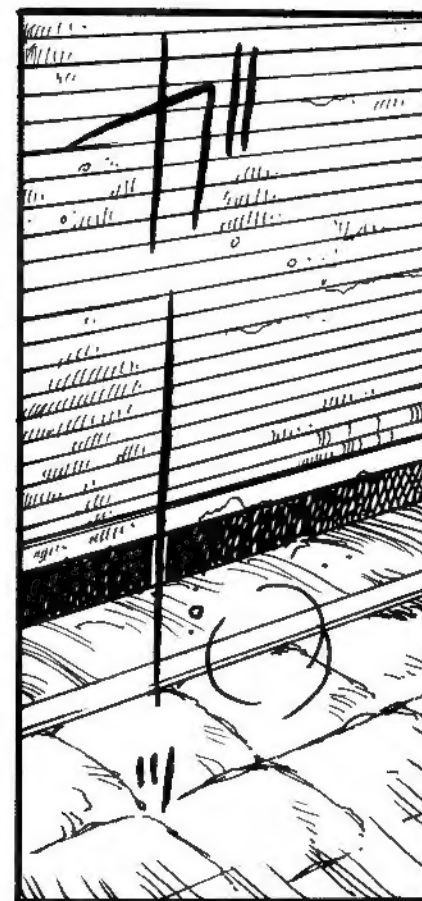
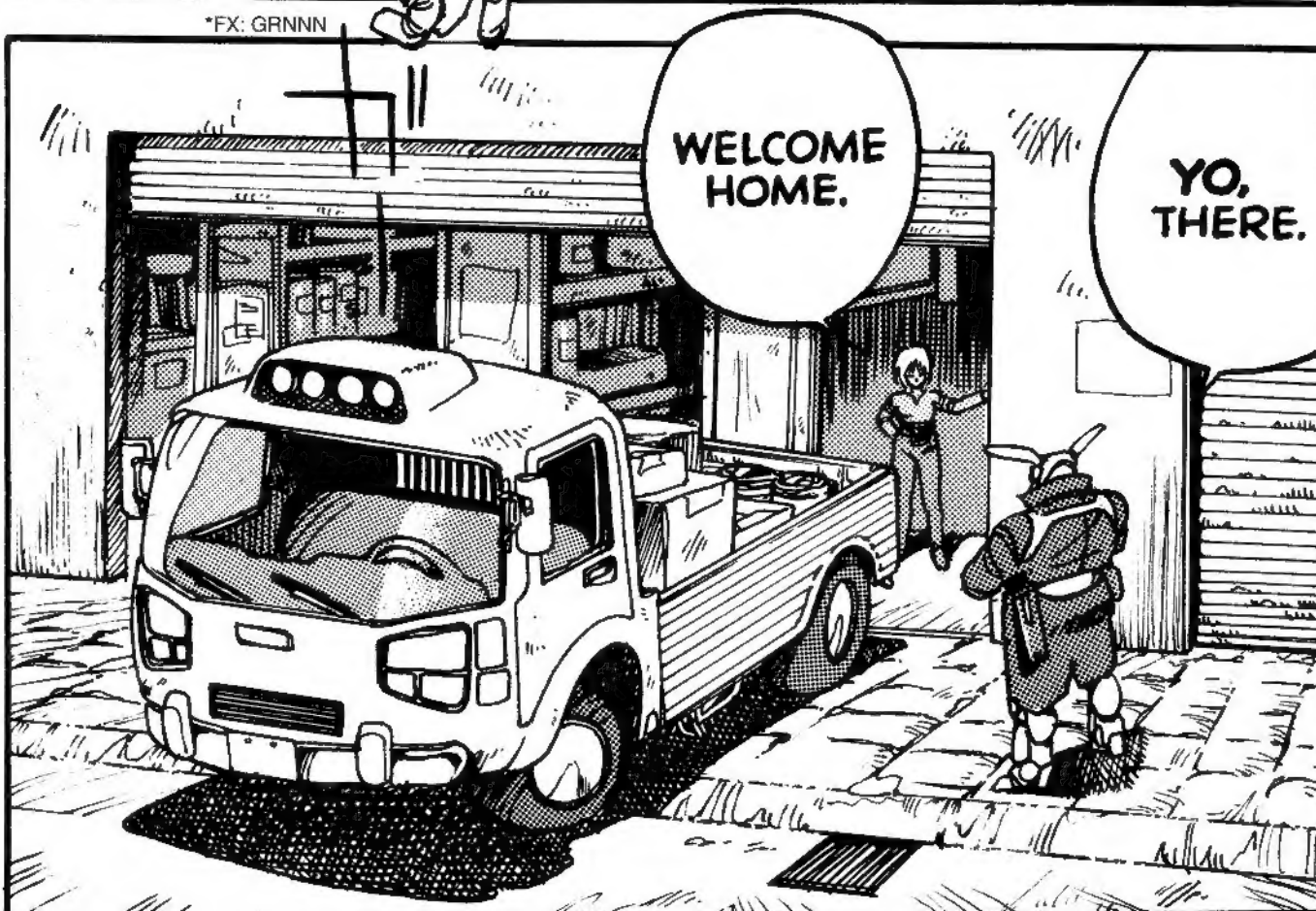
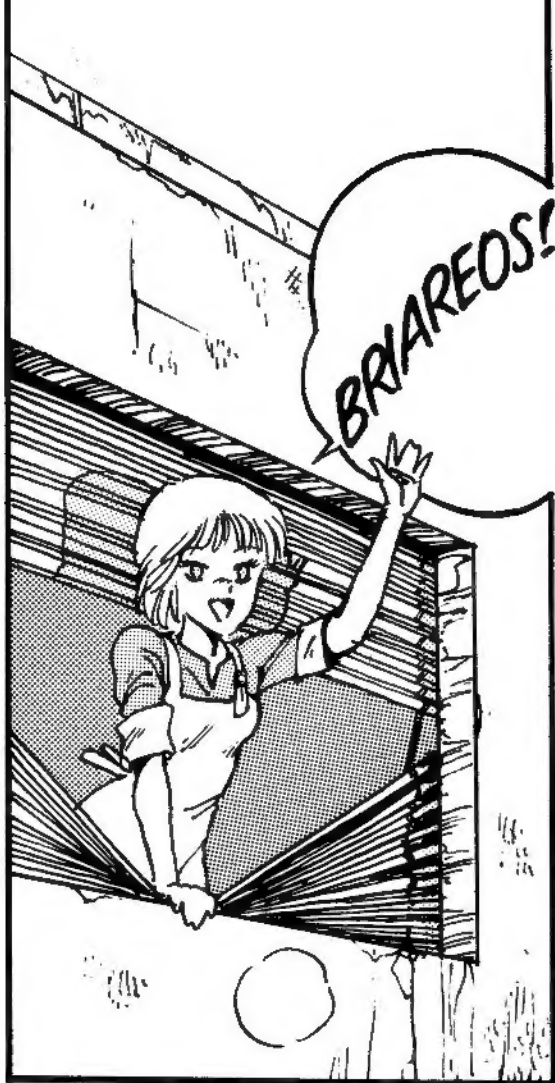
*FX: SSSS

*FX: BLUP BLUP



*FX: BLUP BLUP





*FX: GRNNNN



REALLY...

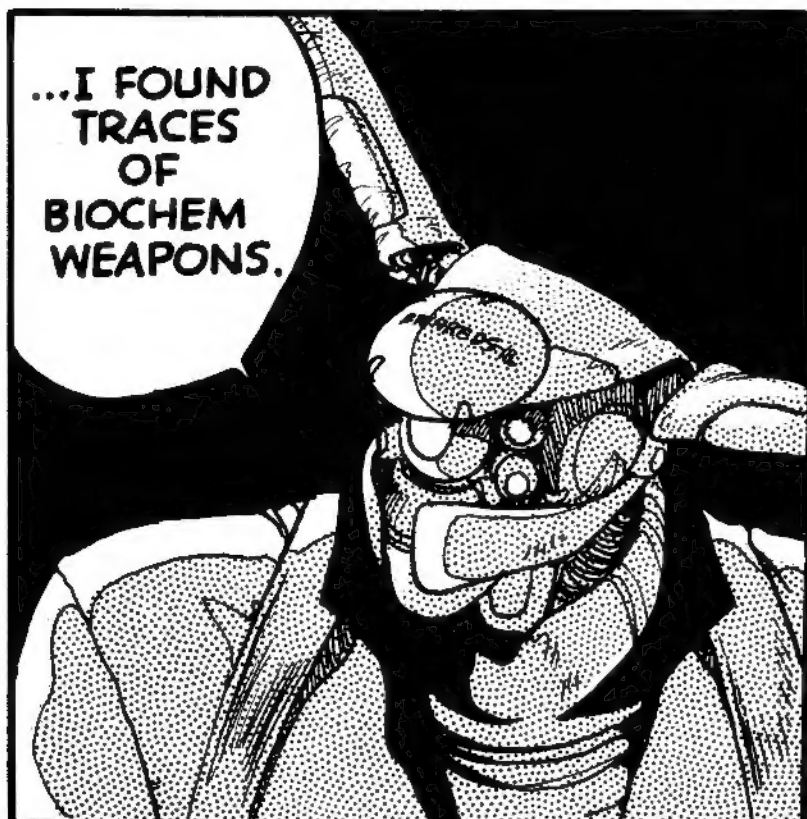
.....

DESERT
ALL
AROUND.
THE
TOWN'S
CUT
OFF.

NOT
GOOD.



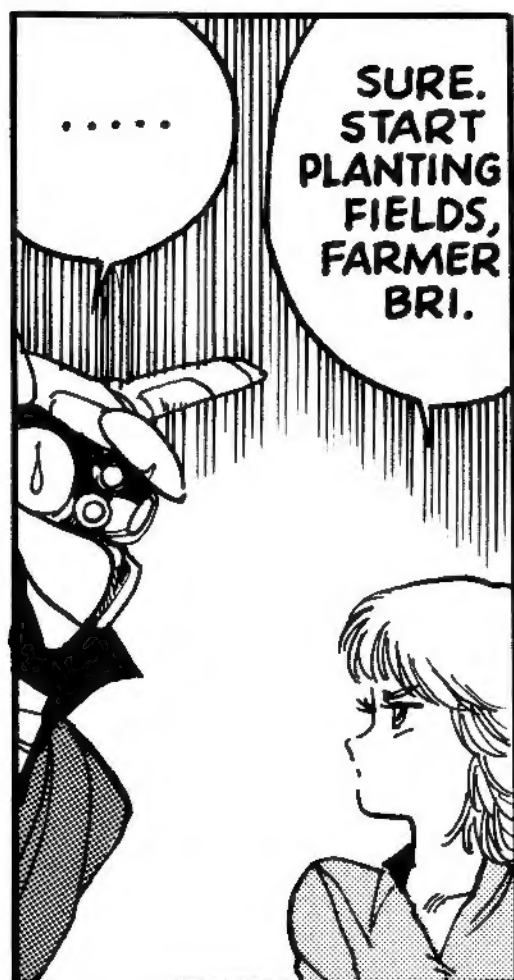
HOW
DOES
IT
LOOK?



...I FOUND
TRACES
OF
BIOCHEM
WEAPONS.



THAT'S NOT
THE WORST
OF IT.
THIS TOWN
WASN'T JUST
ABANDONED
...



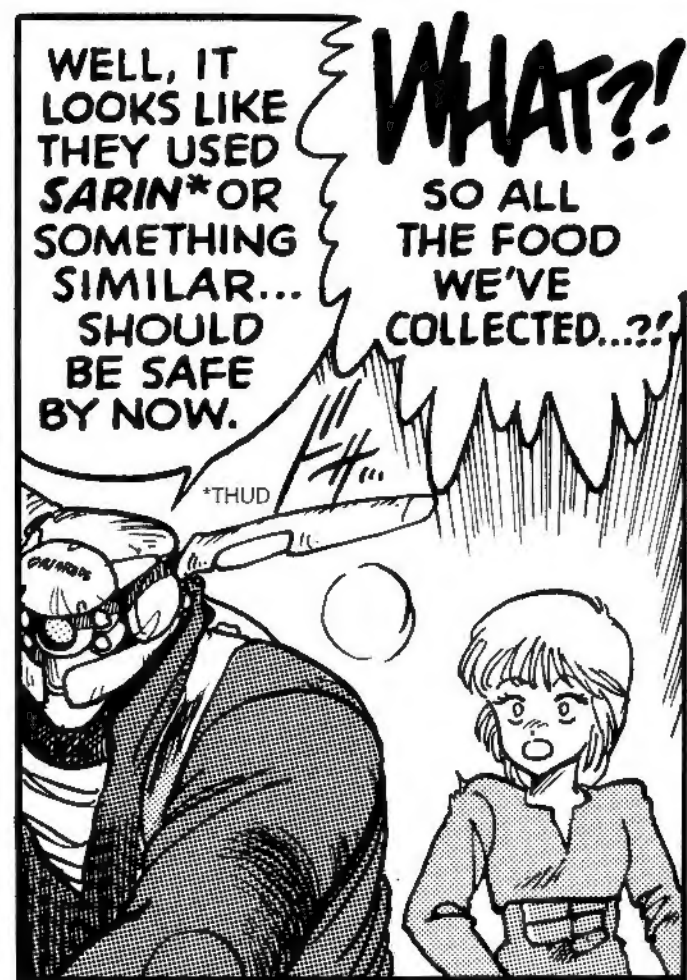
.....

SURE.
START
PLANTING
FIELDS,
FARMER
BRI.



ARE WE
GOING
TO BE
ABLE TO
GET BY?

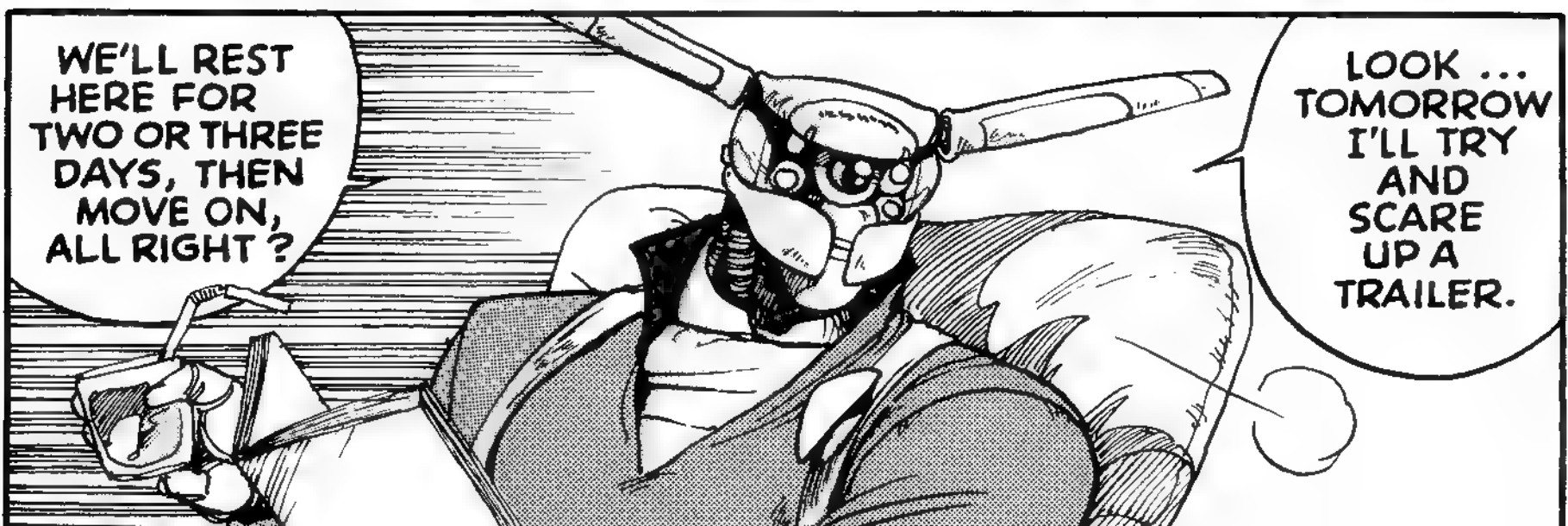
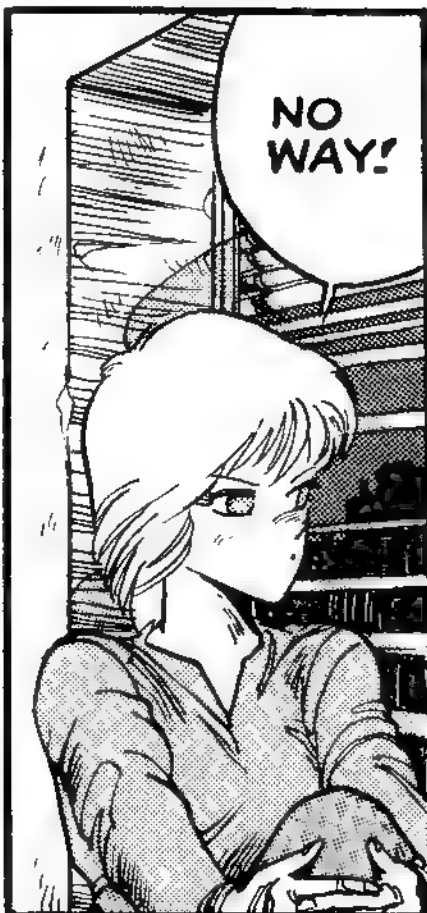
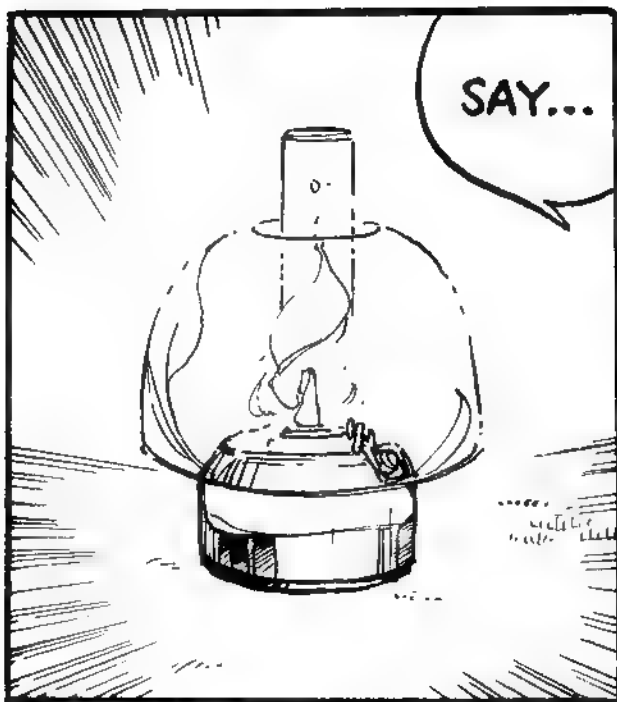
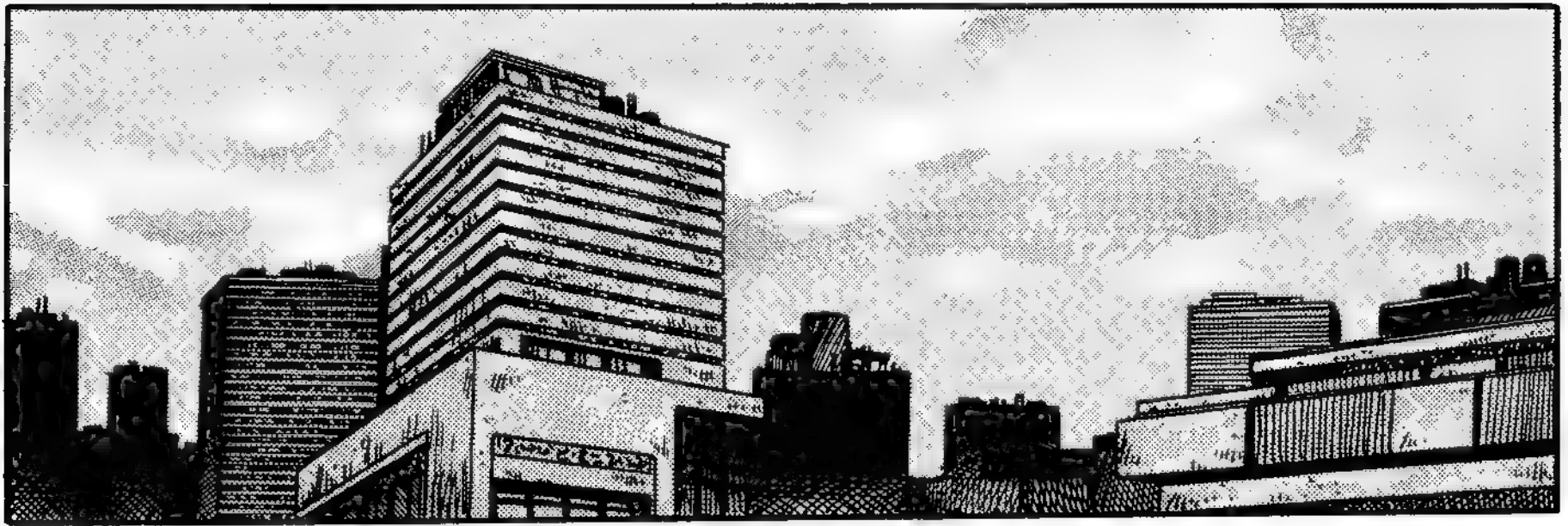
BUT I'M
AFRAID
THIS IS IT
FOR
SUPPLIES.
WHAT DO
YOU
THINK?

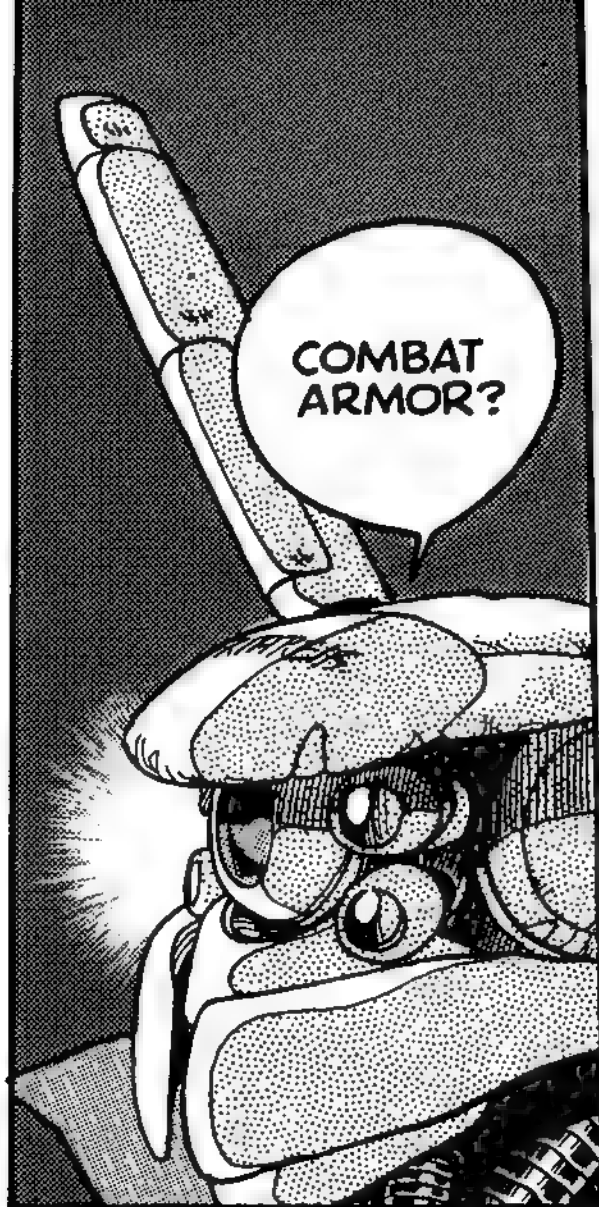


WELL, IT
LOOKS LIKE
THEY USED
SARIN* OR
SOMETHING
SIMILAR...
SHOULD
BE SAFE
BY NOW.

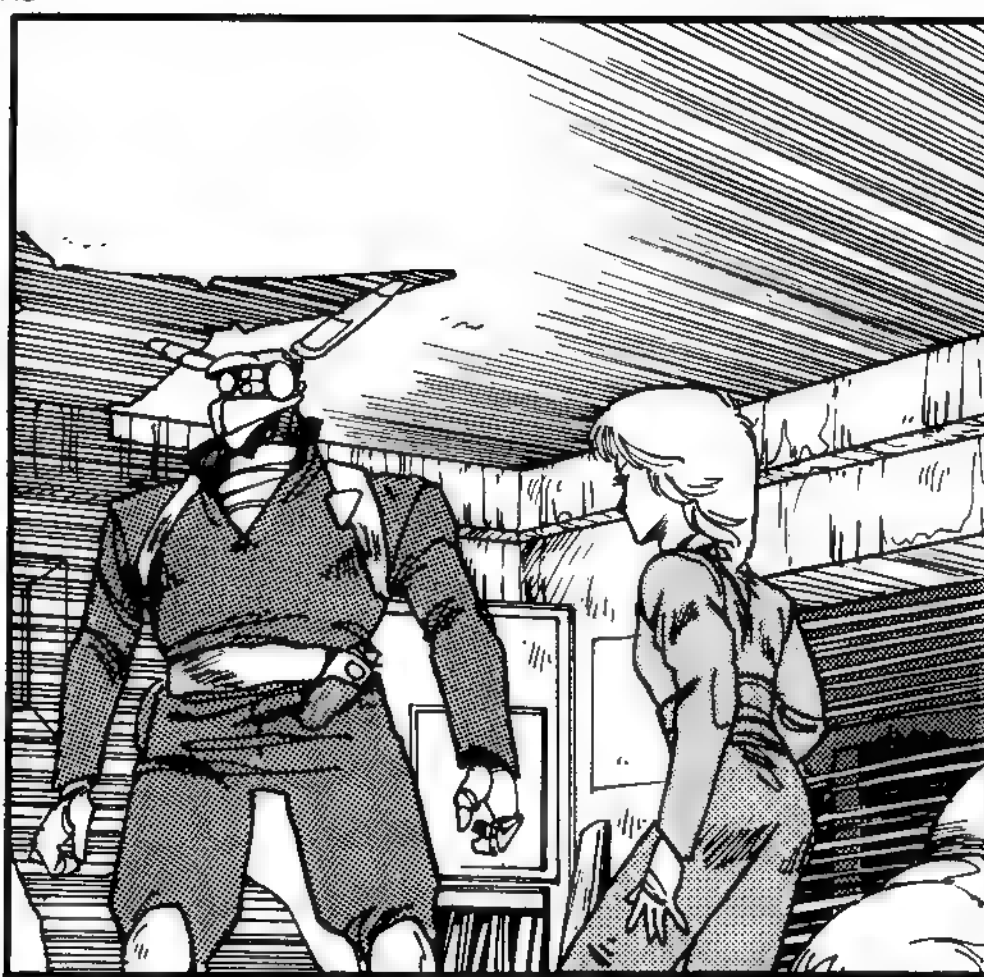
WHAT?!
SO ALL
THE FOOD
WE'VE
COLLECTED...?!

*Sarin: a rapid-dispersal nerve gas.
Lethal dose 1mmg (0.000000035 oz.)

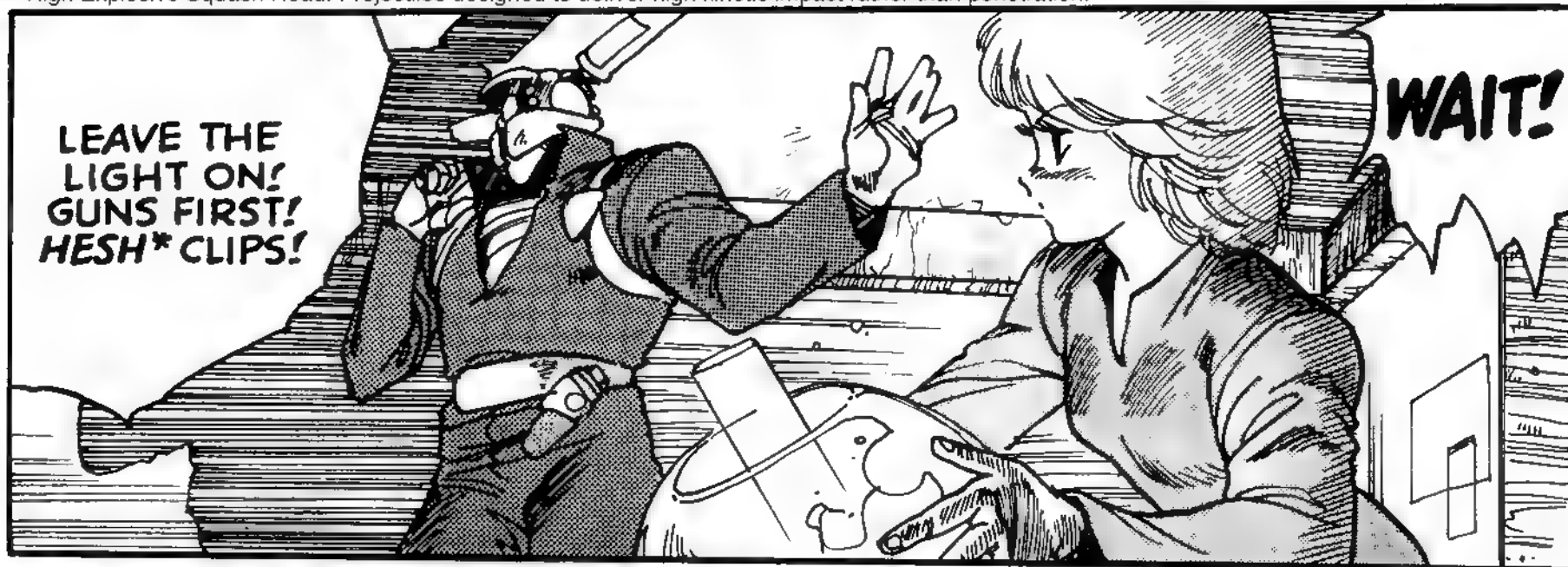




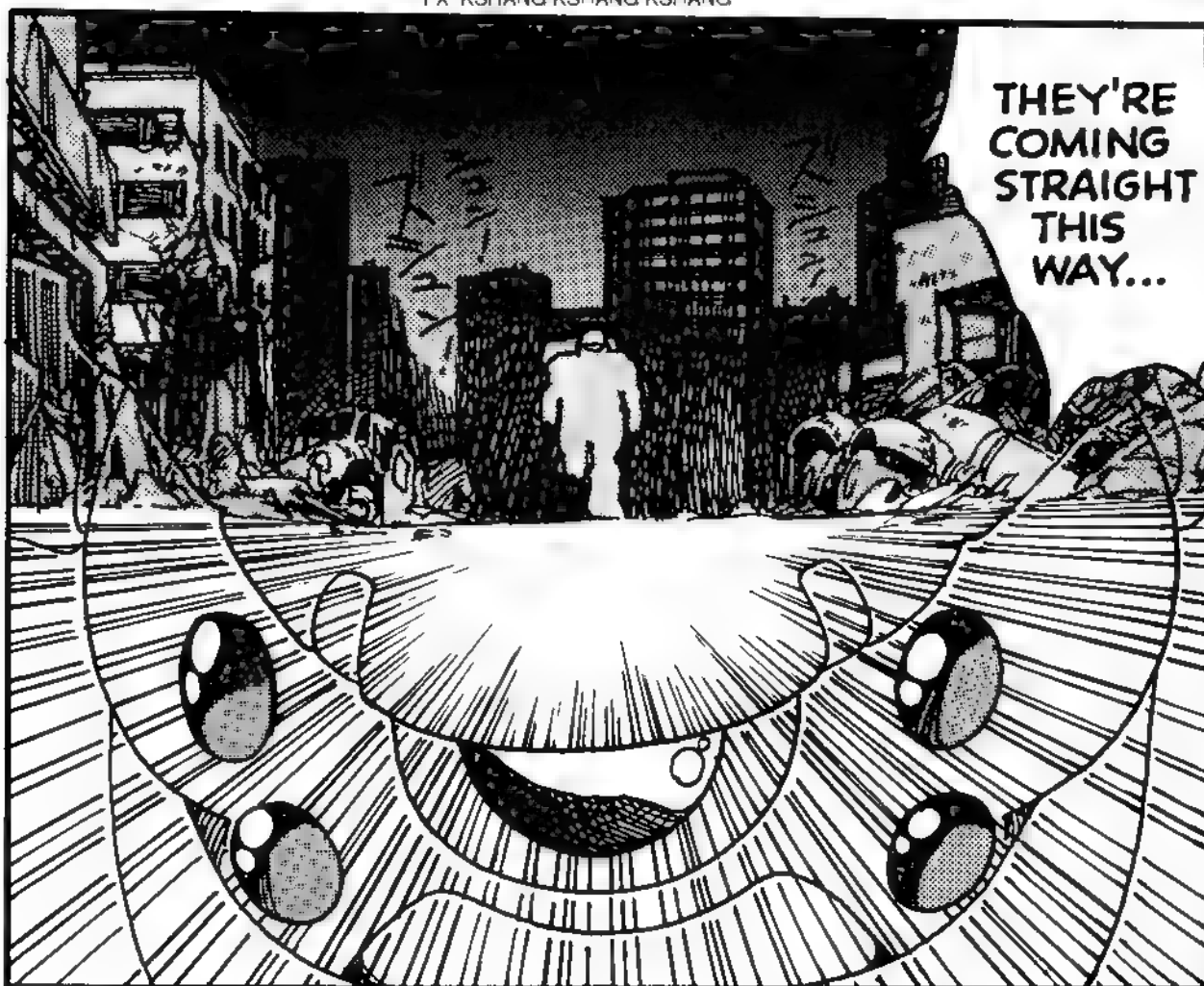
*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG

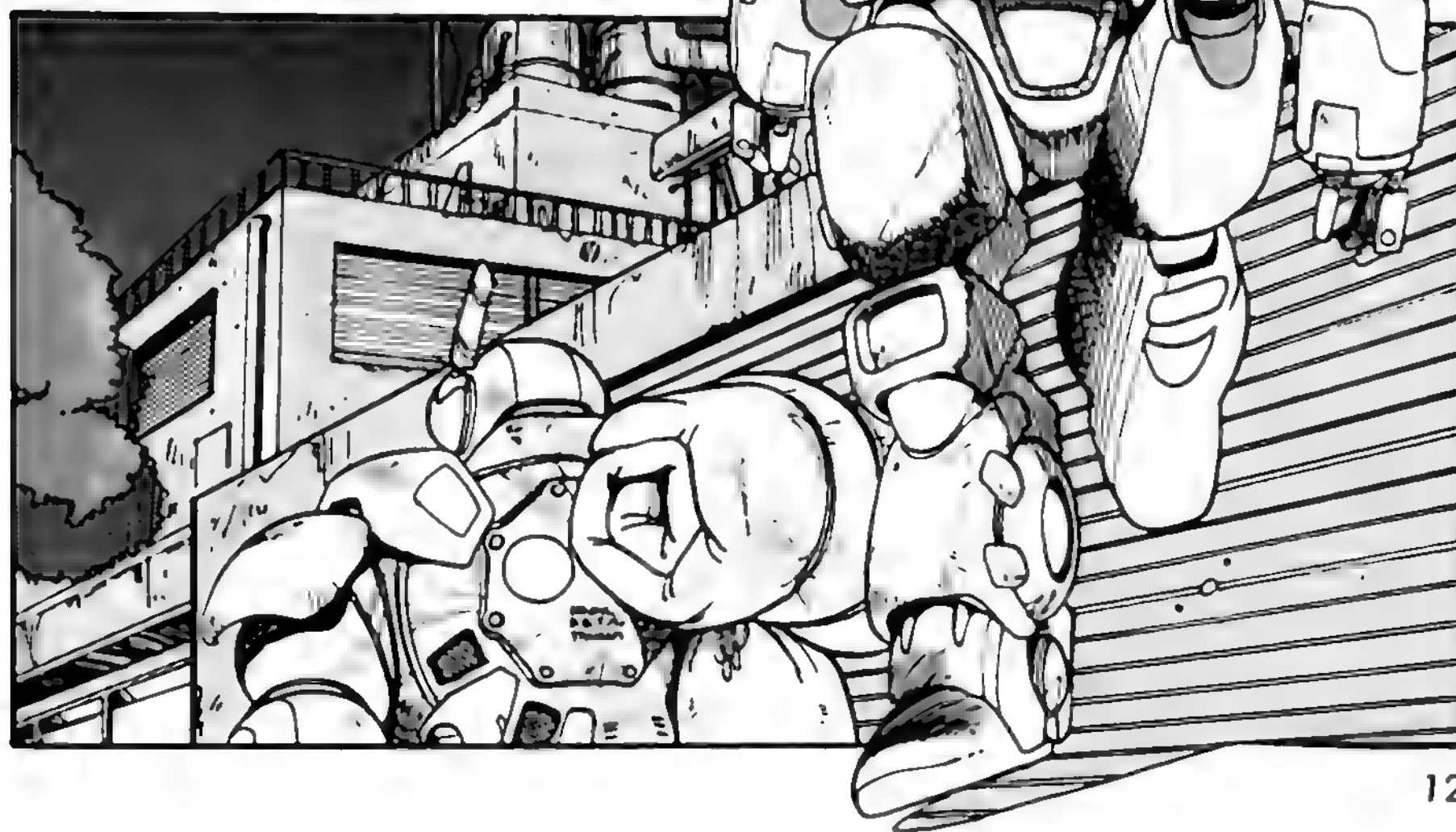


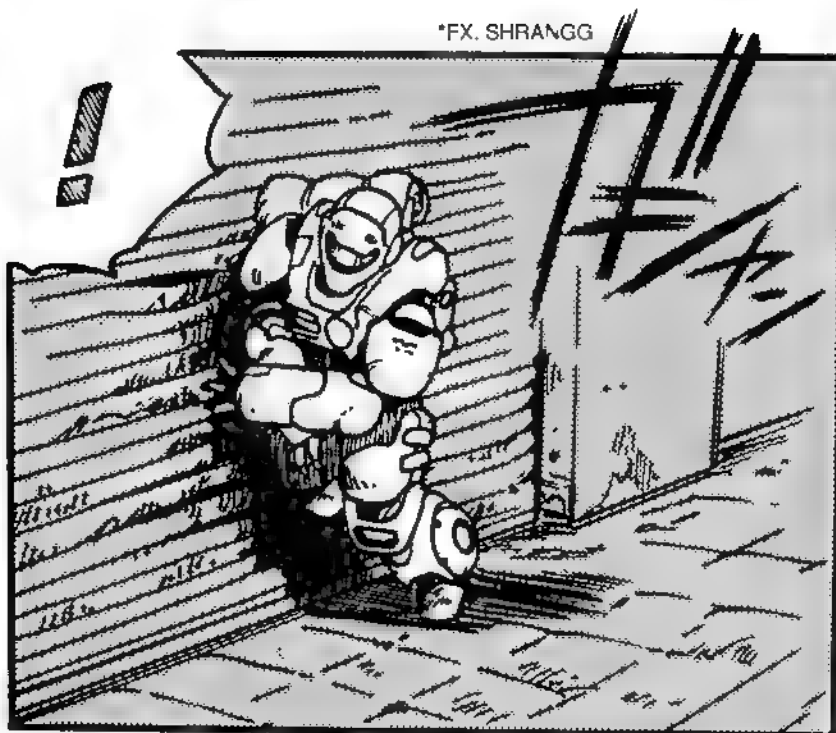
*High Explosive Squash Head. Projectiles designed to deliver high kinetic impact rather than penetration.



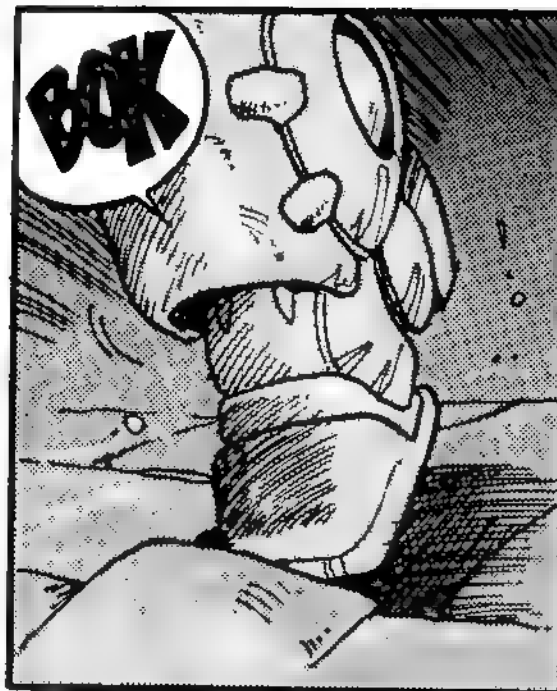
*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG







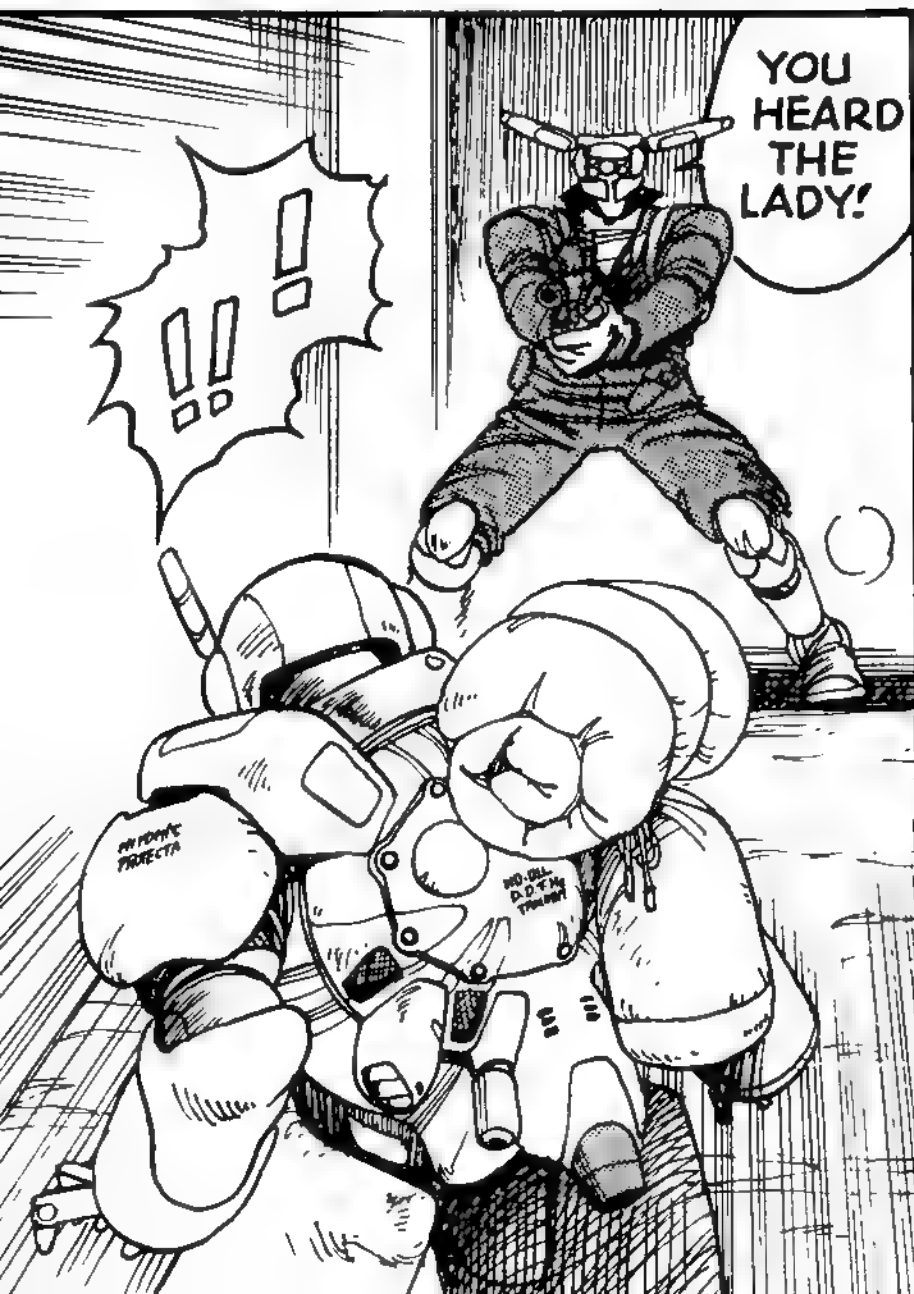
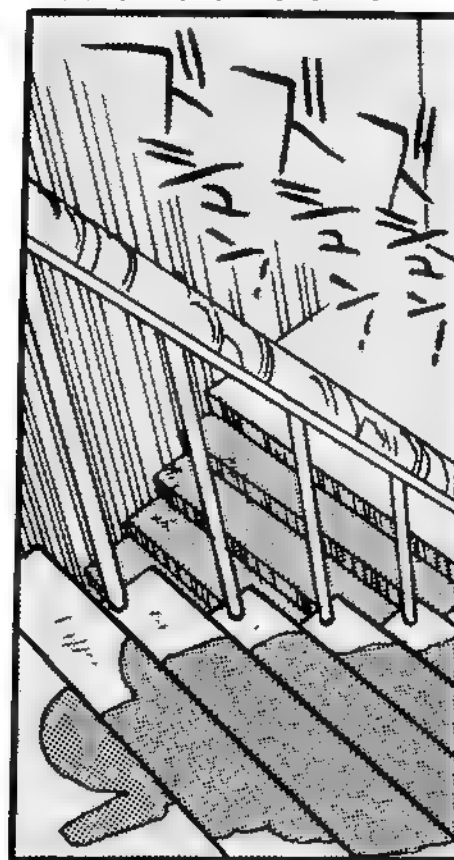
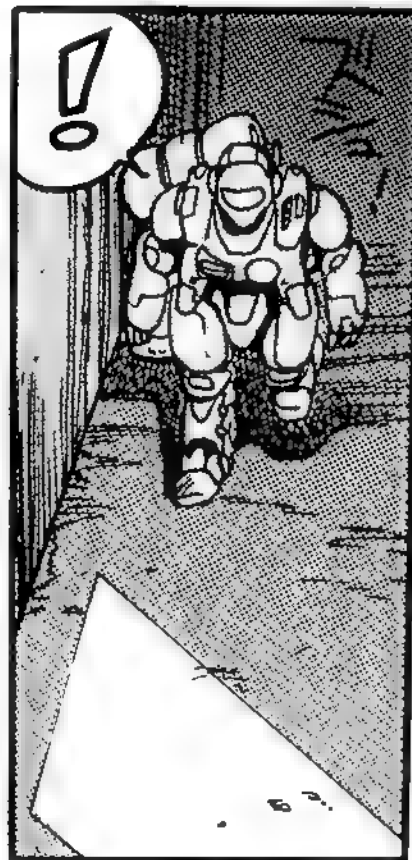
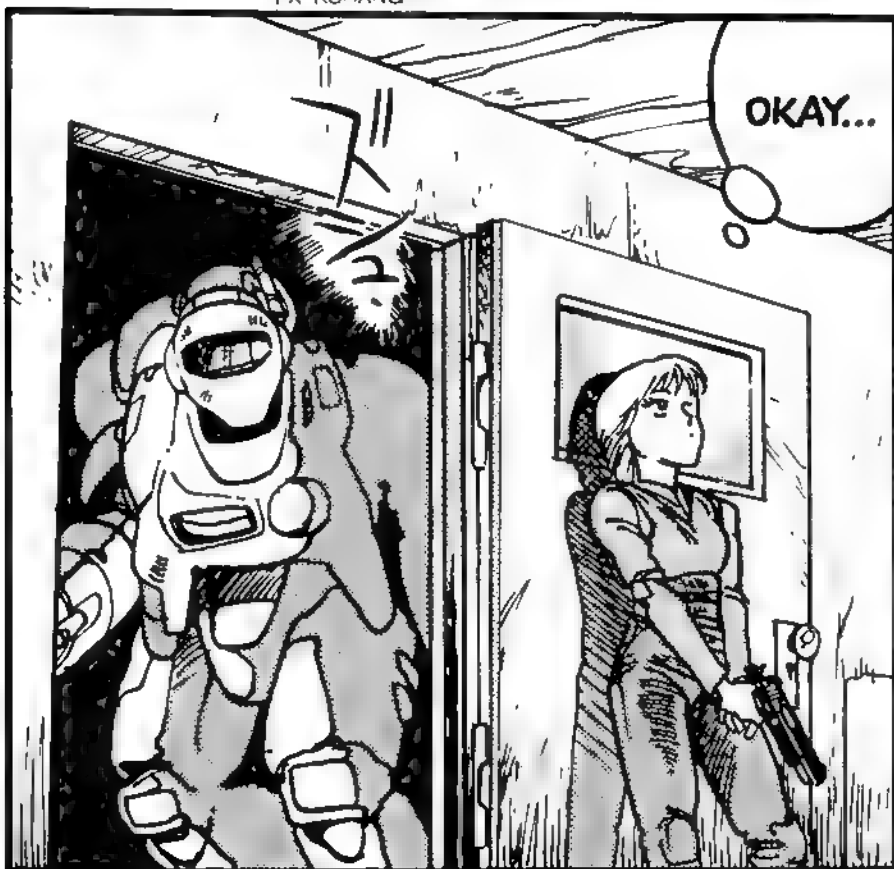
*FX. SHRANGG



*FX KSHANG

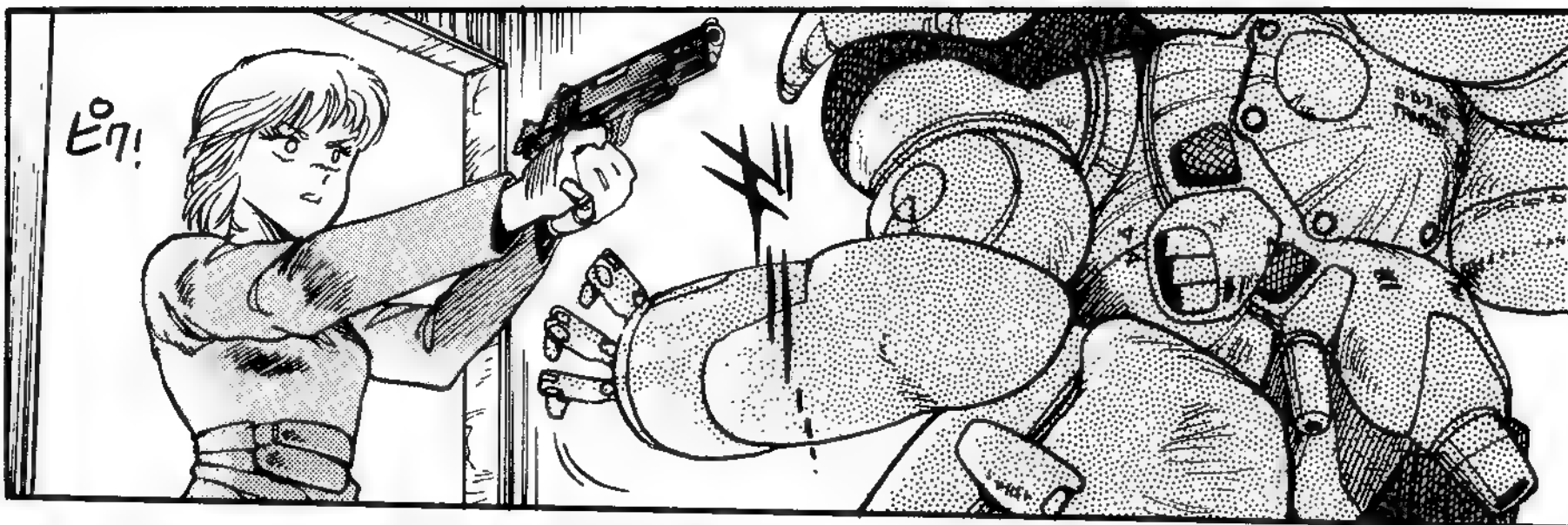
*FX KSHANG

*FX KSHANG KSHANG KSHANG

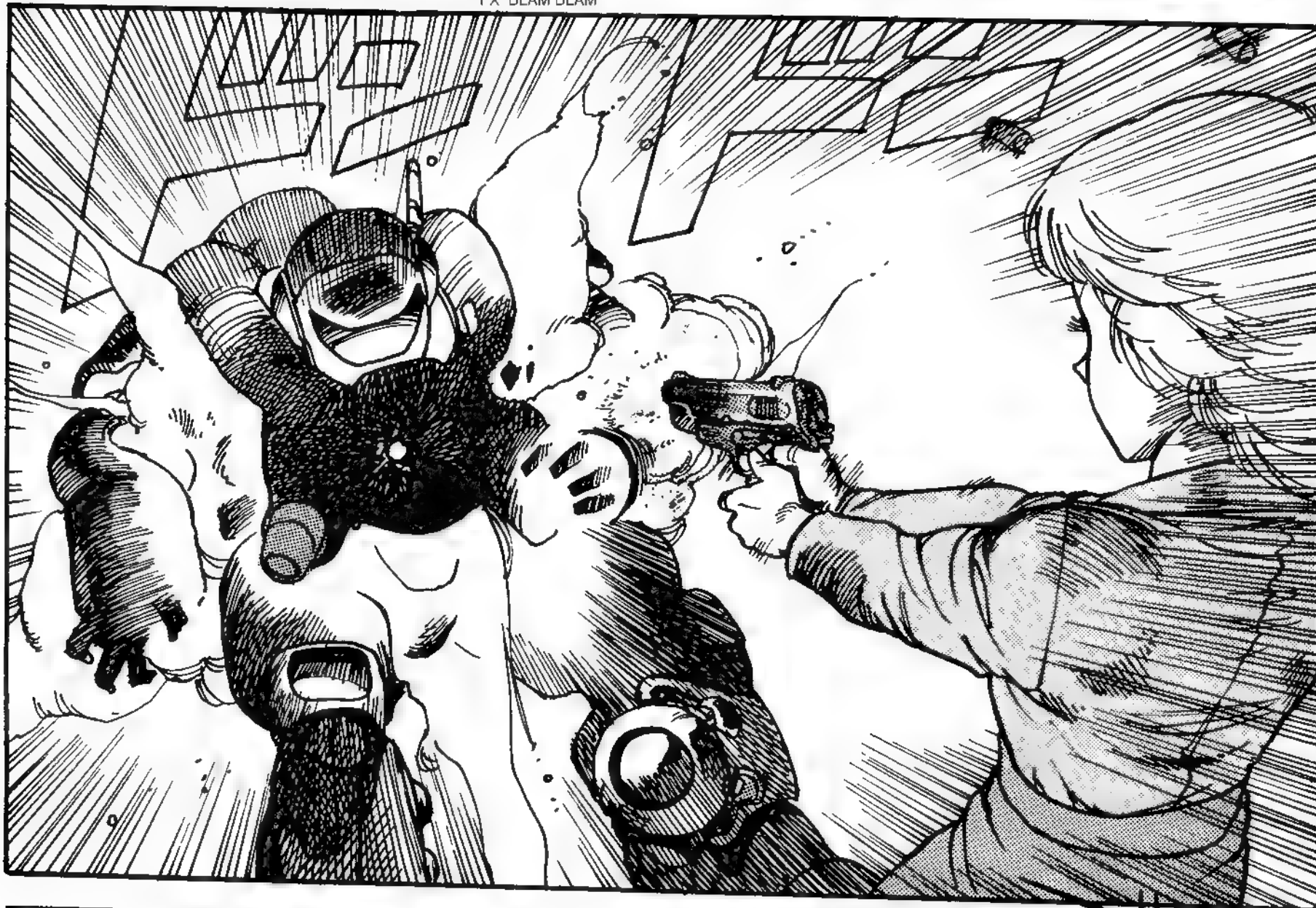


*FX TWITCH

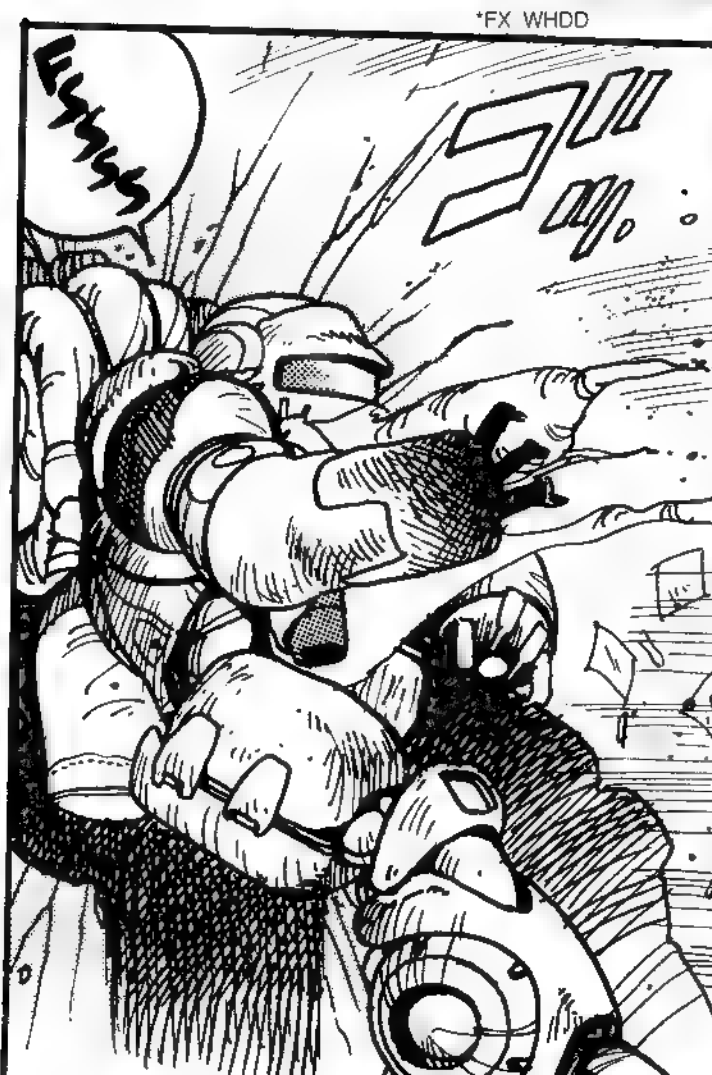
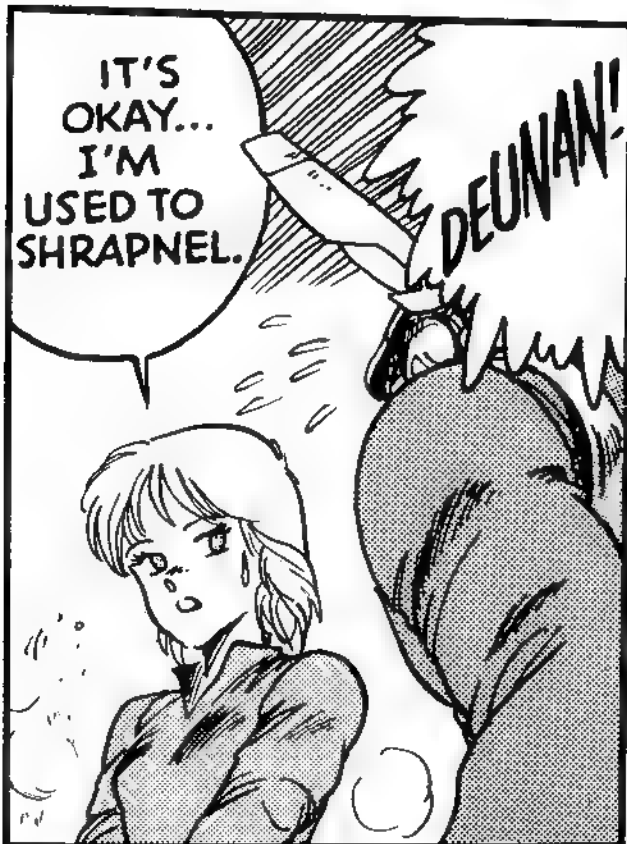
*FX SKREE



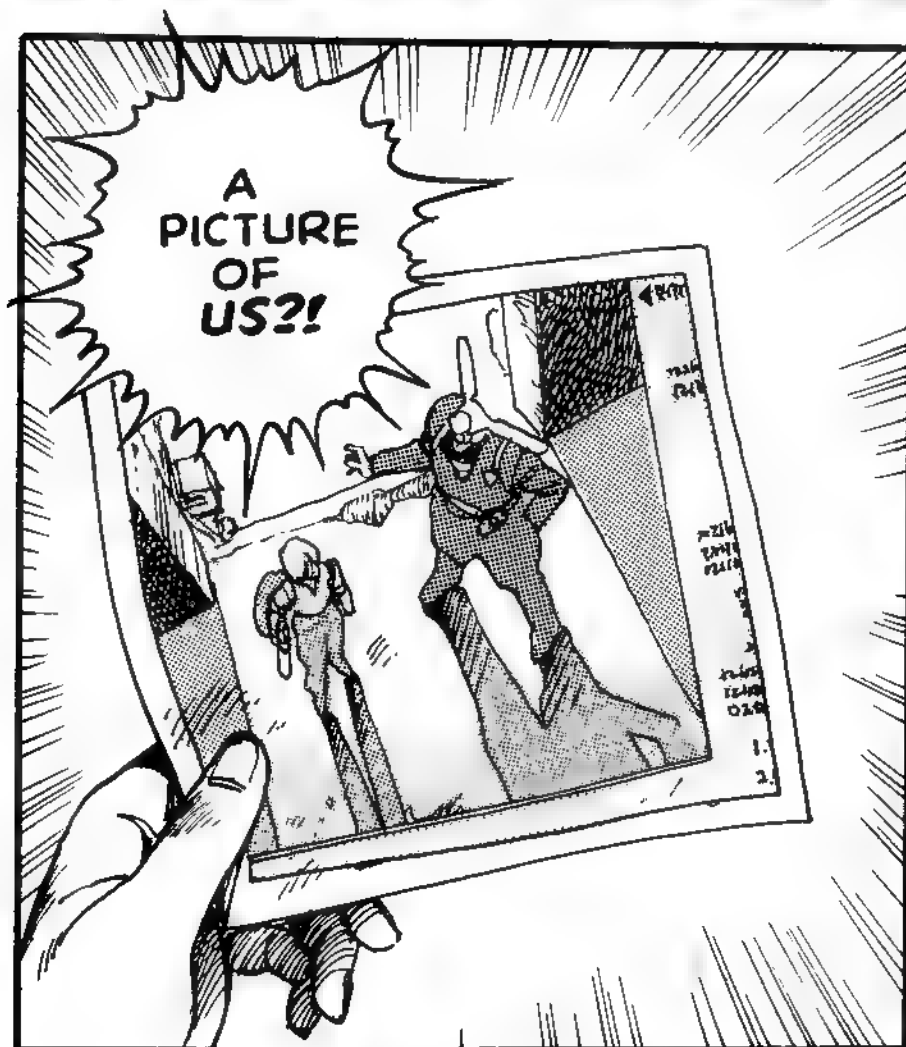
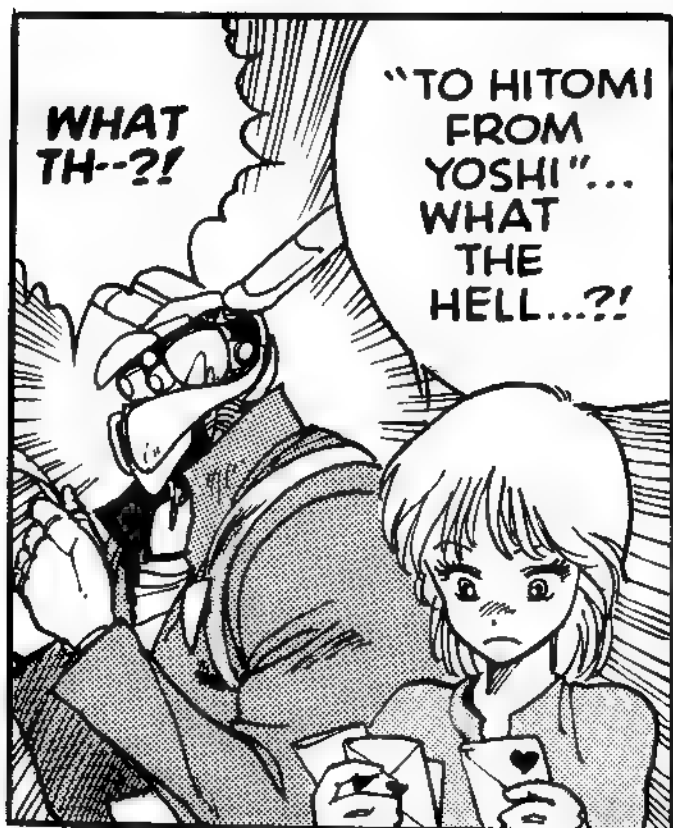
*FX BLAM BLAM



*FX WHDD

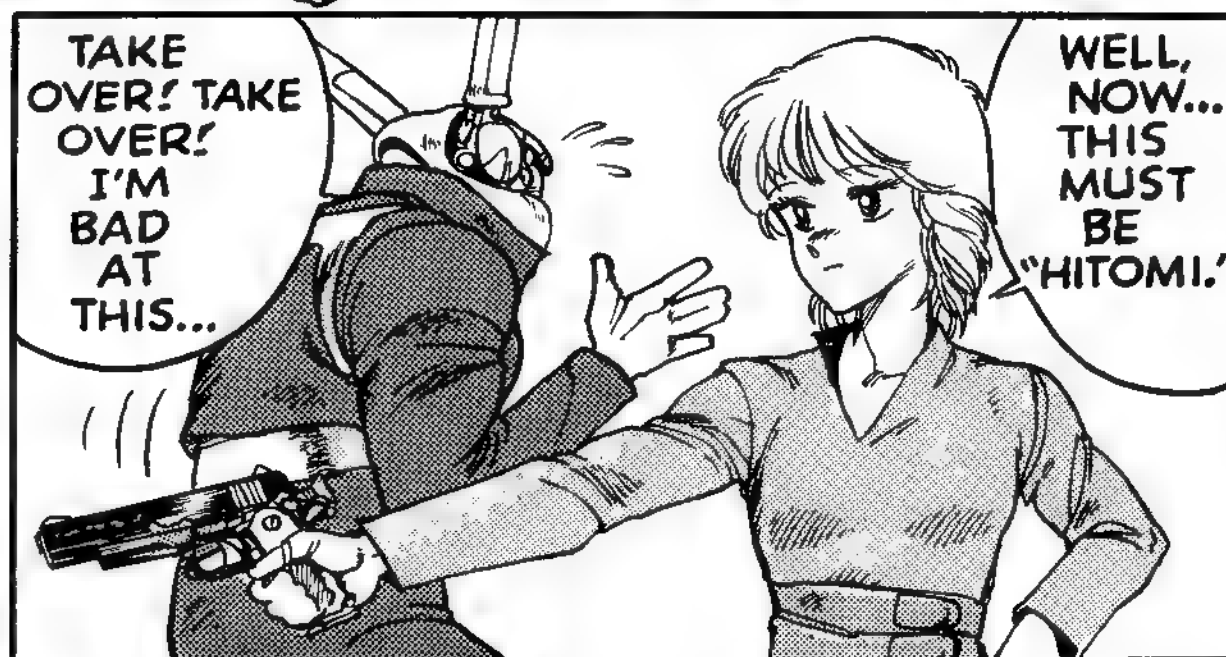
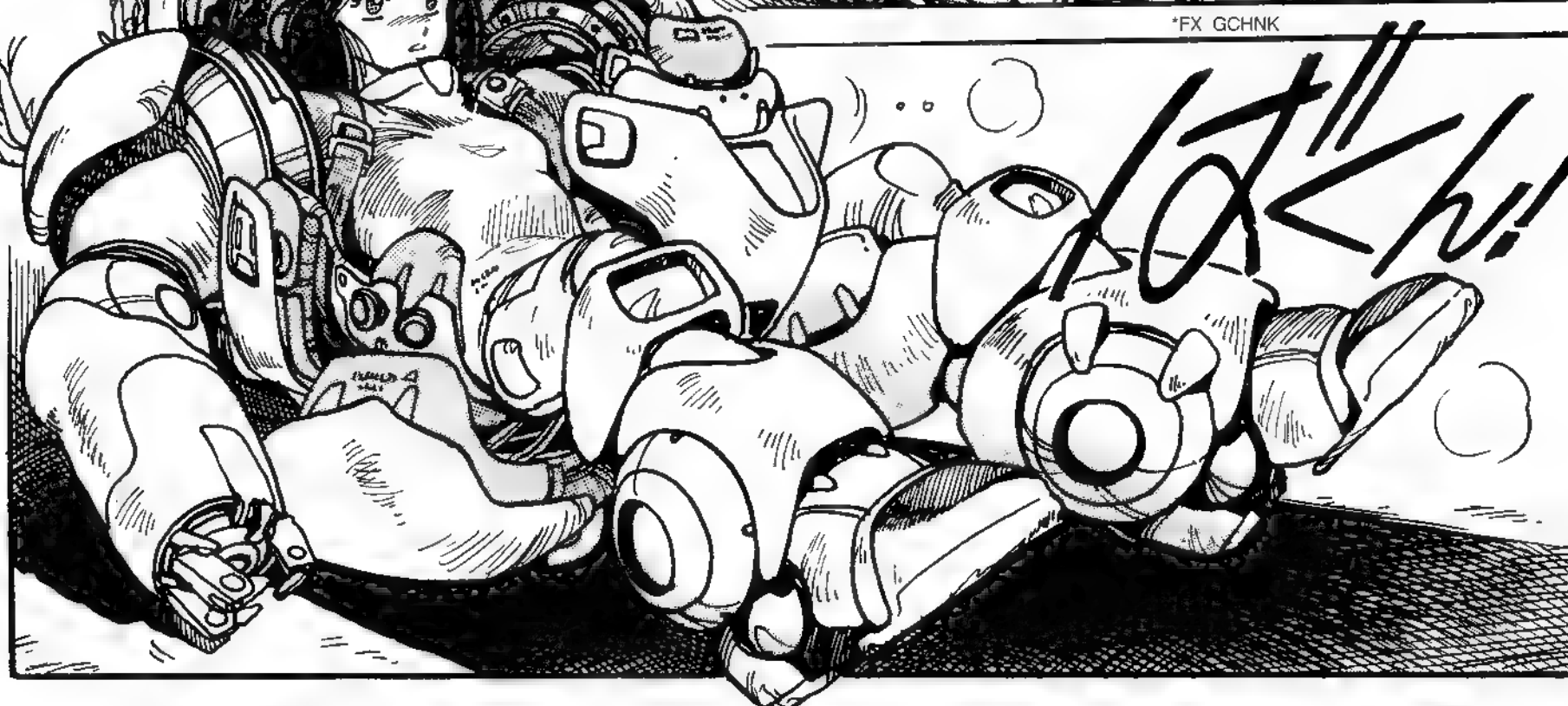
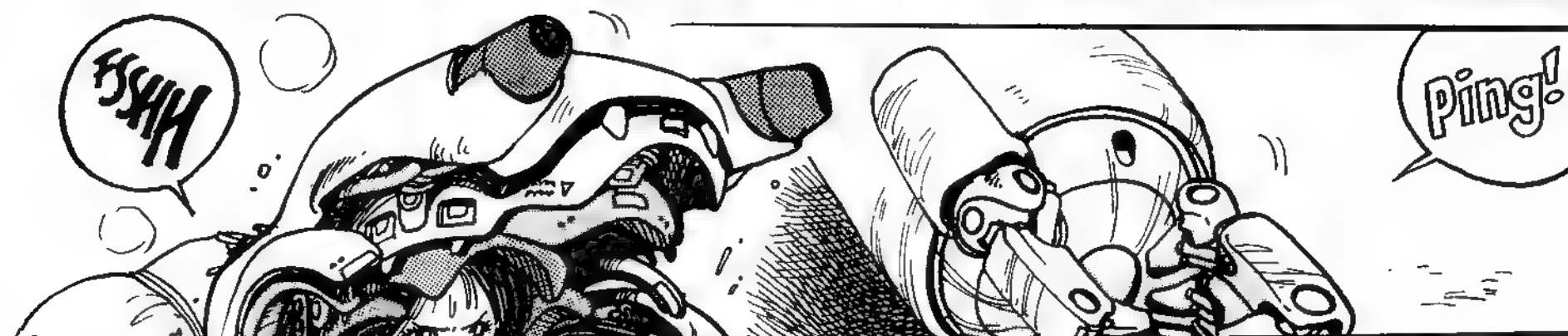


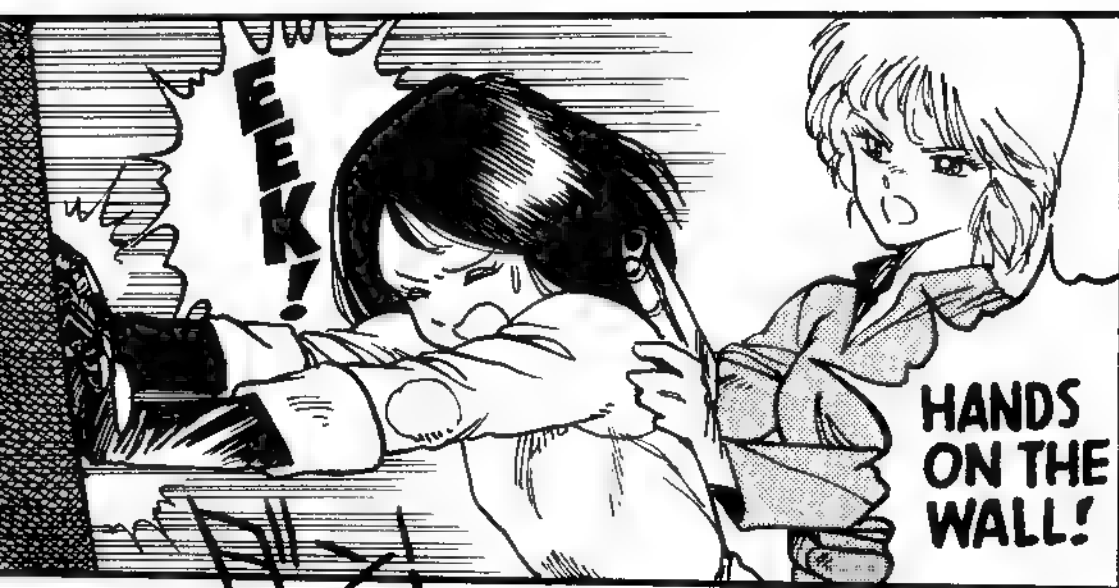
*FX KSHANG KSHANG



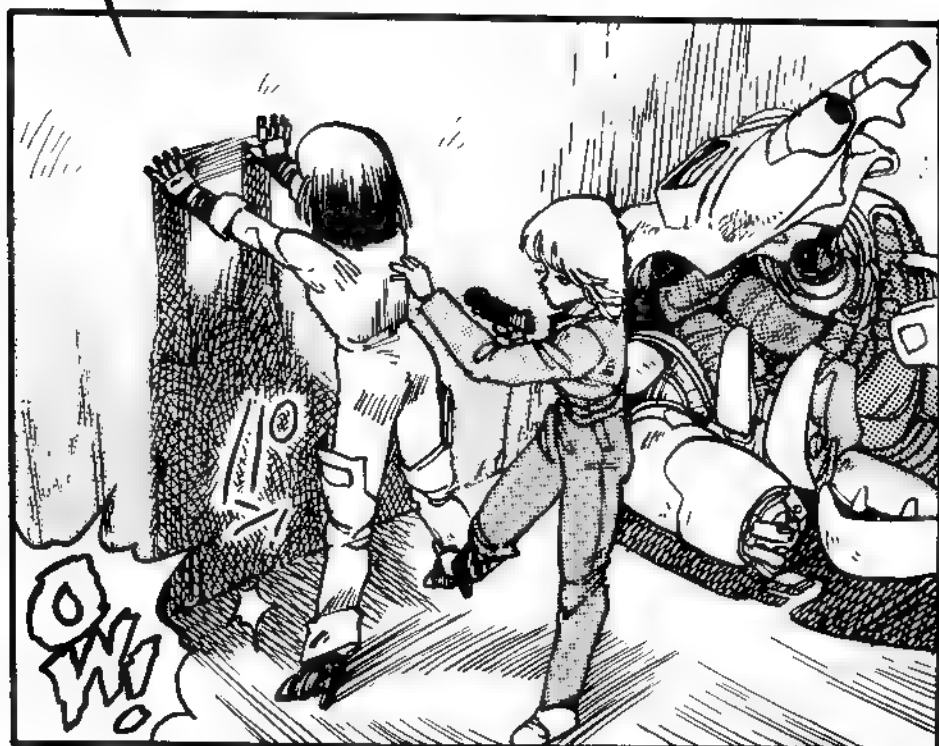
*FX KLIK *FX CLENCH



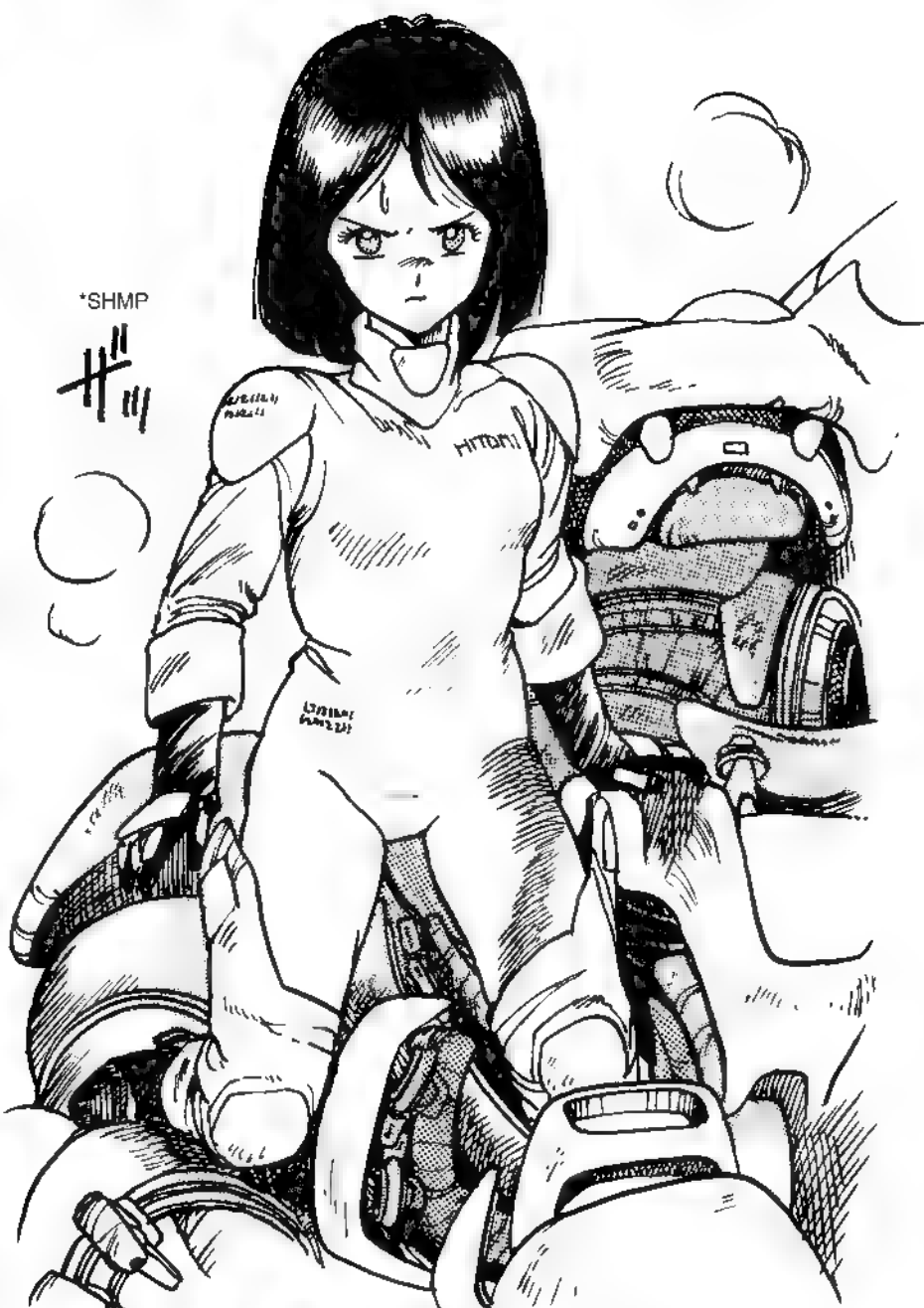




*FX BAP



*FX THK



*SHMP





*FX GNGNGN



*FX GCHUNK



*FX GRNGRNGRN



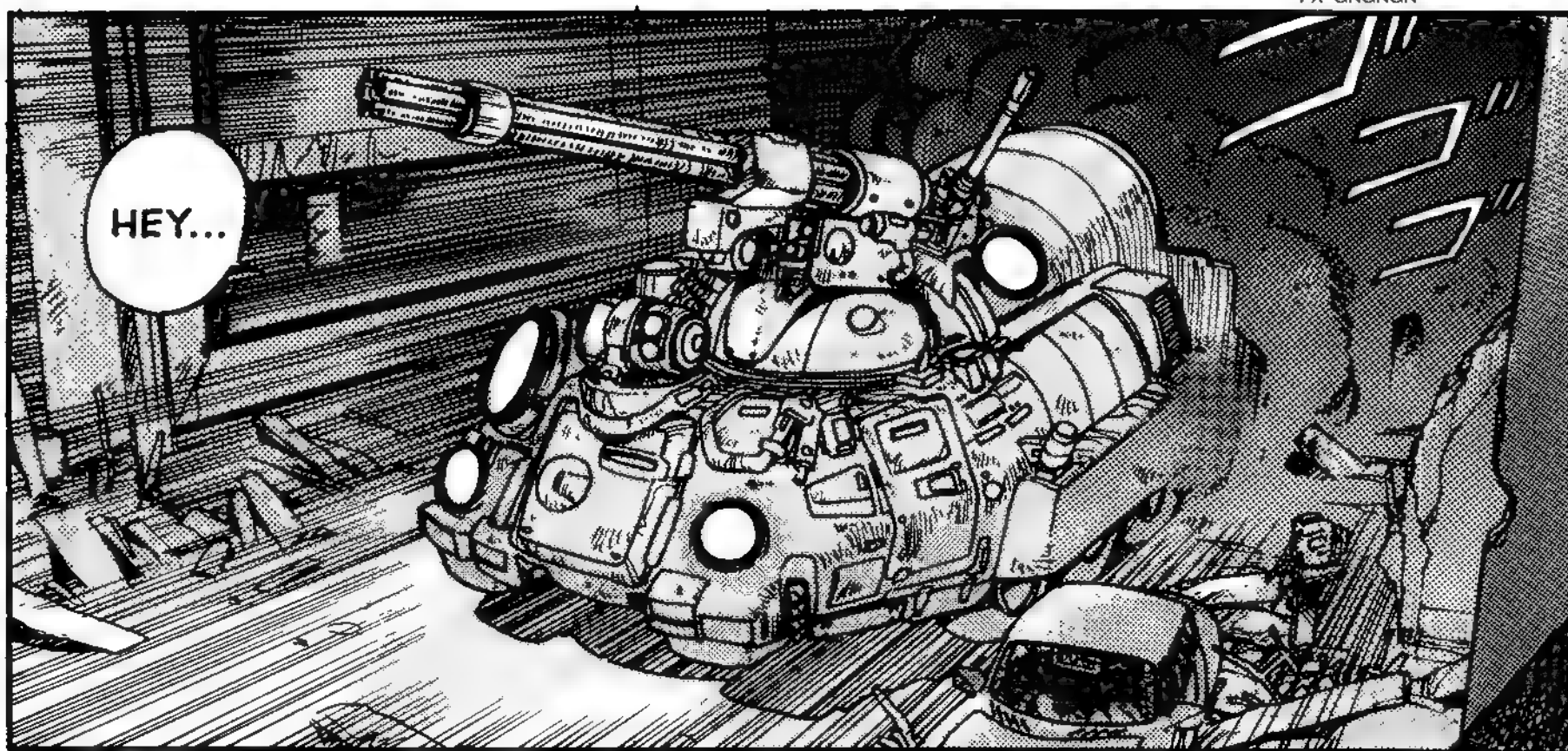
*FX FSSH



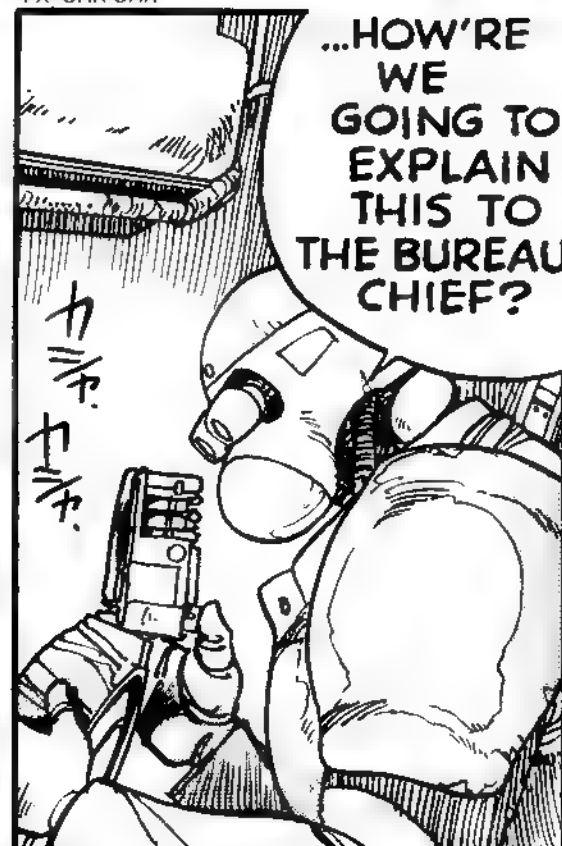
PLACE
IS IN
PRETTY
GOOD
SHAPE...

LOOKS
LIKE
THE
DUNES
STOP
HERE.

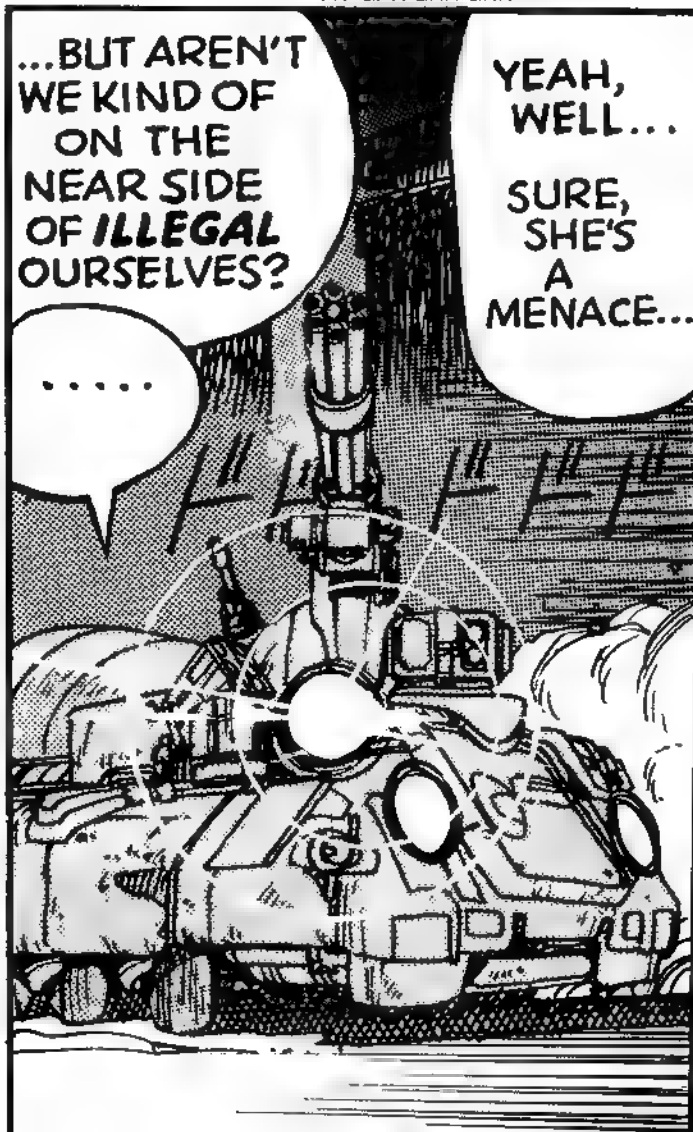
COME
ON...
GET
THOSE
WHEELS
DOWN!



*FX CHK CHK



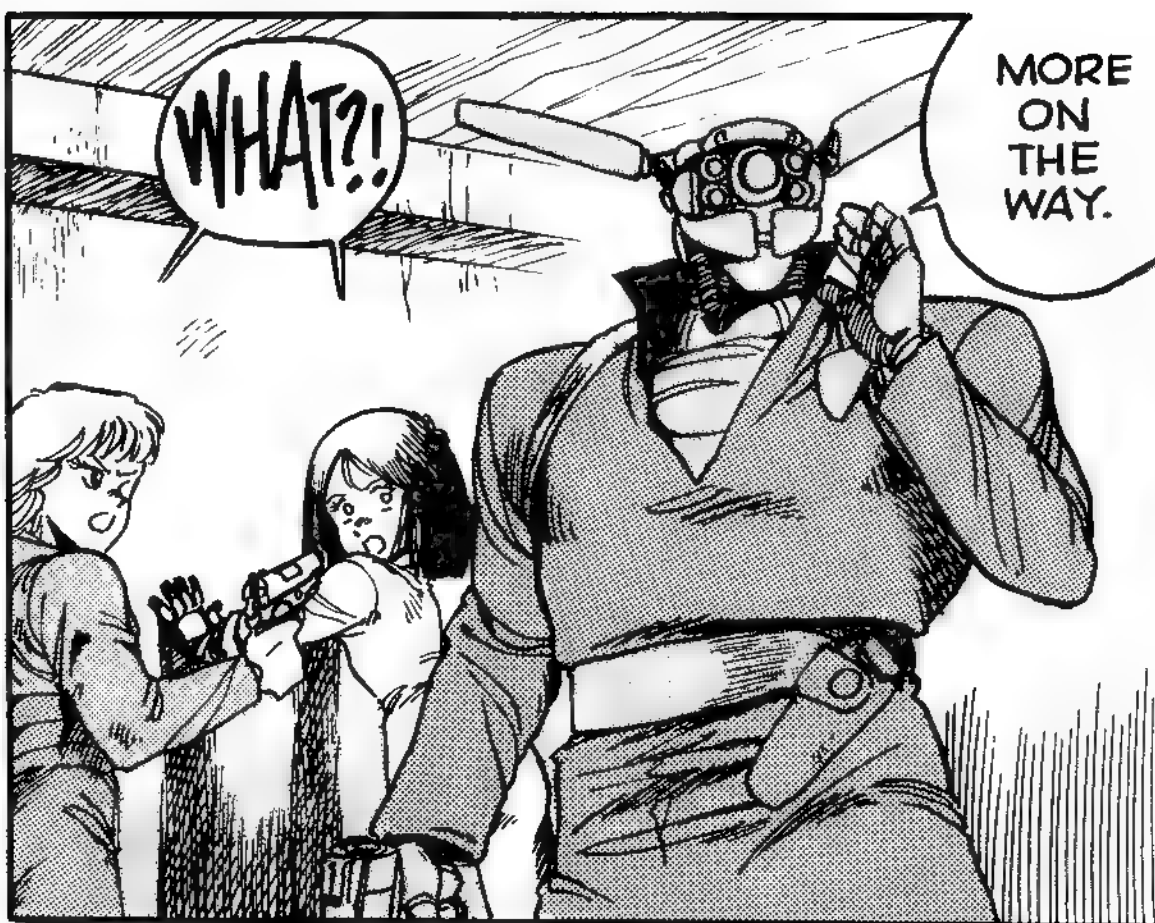
*FX GRN GRN GRN



YEAH, WELL...
SURE, SHE'S A MENACE...

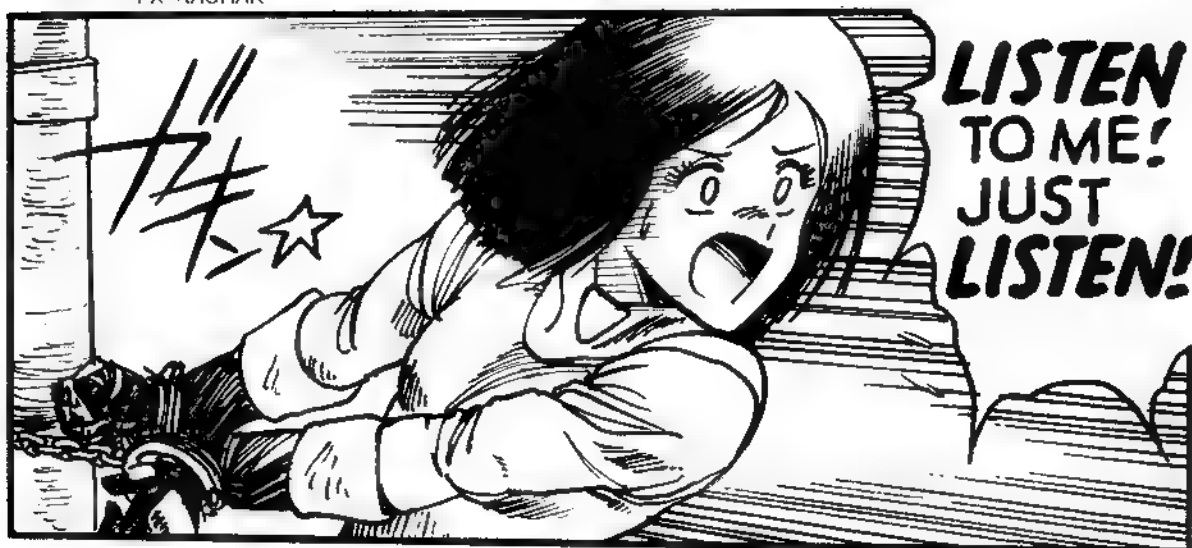


NONE OF US WILL GET IT.

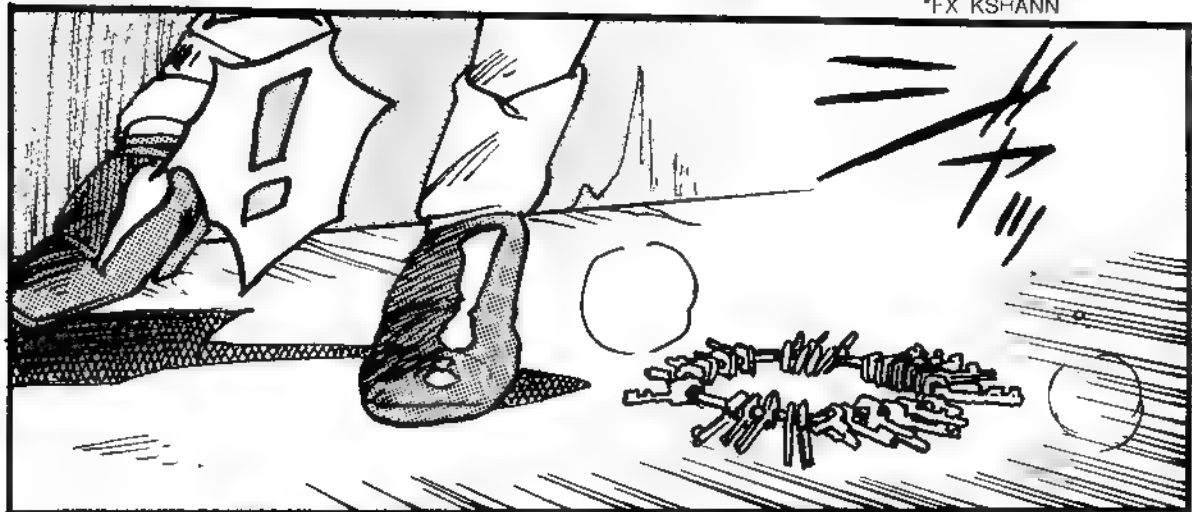


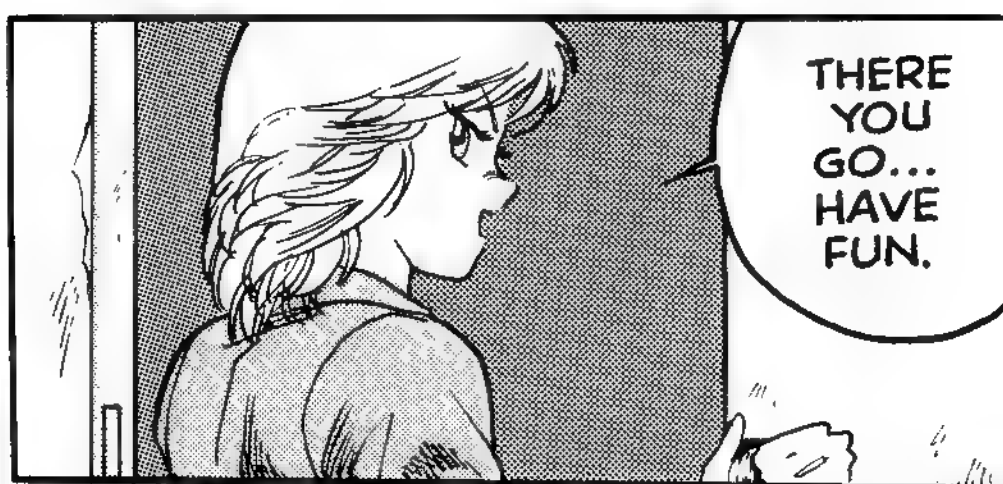
*FX KACHAK

*FX CHANK

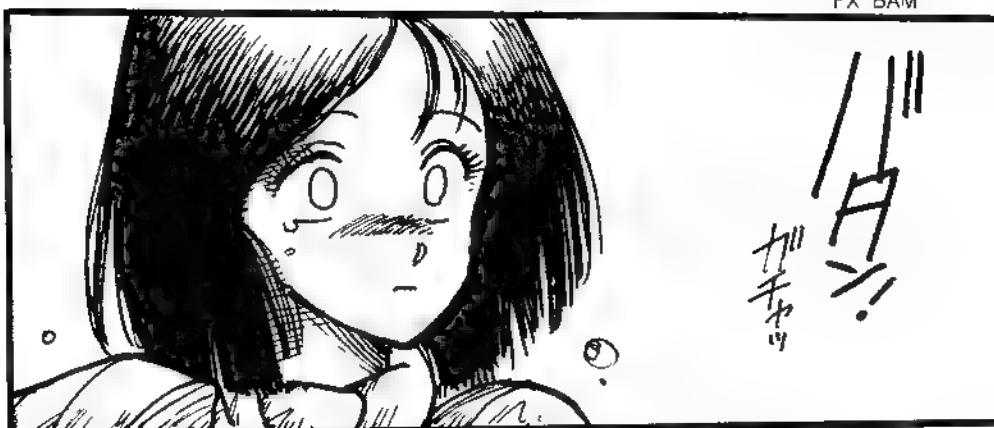


*FX KSHANN

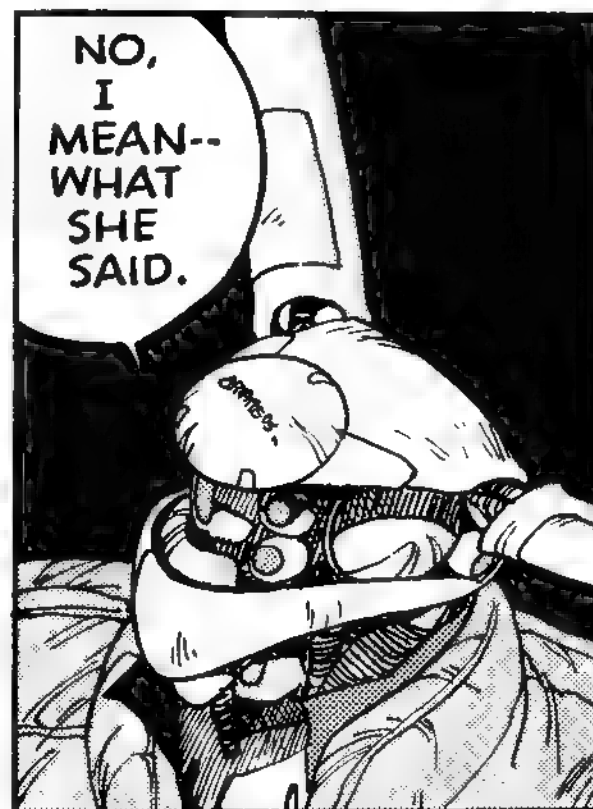
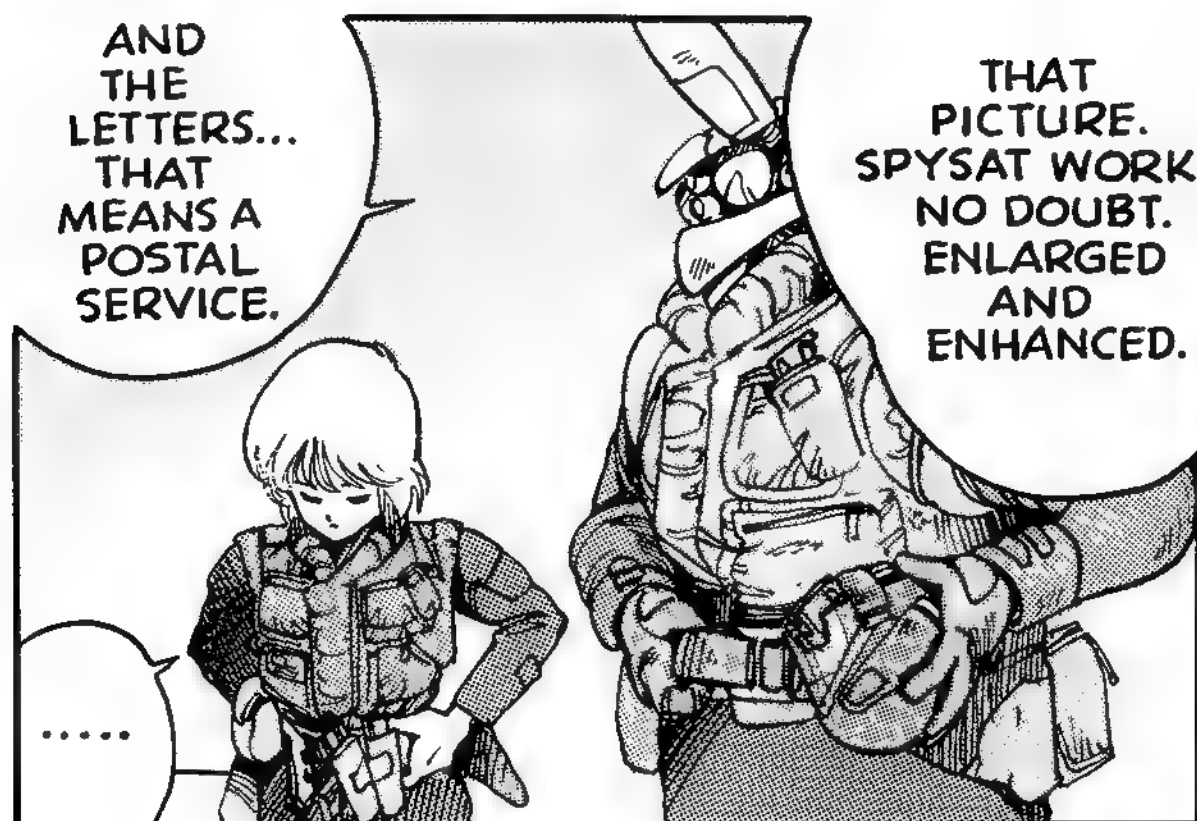
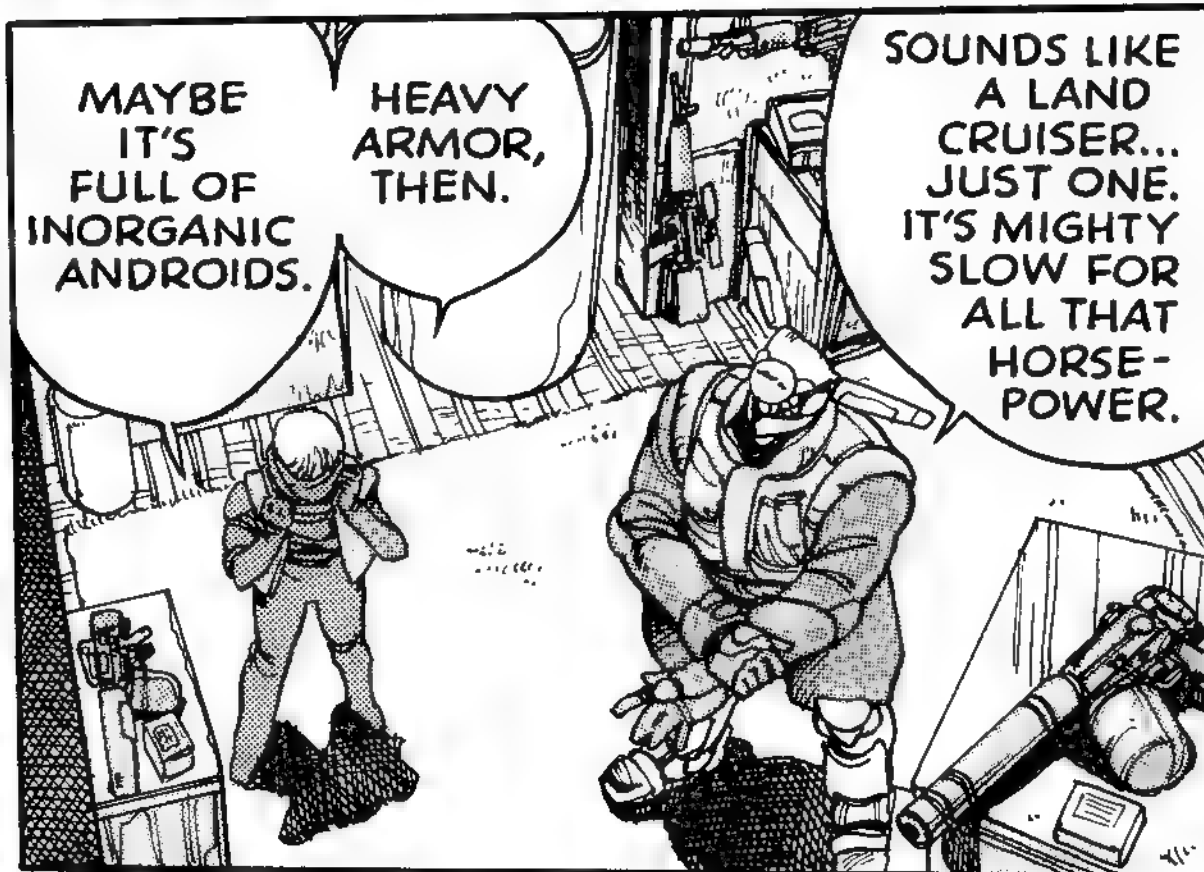




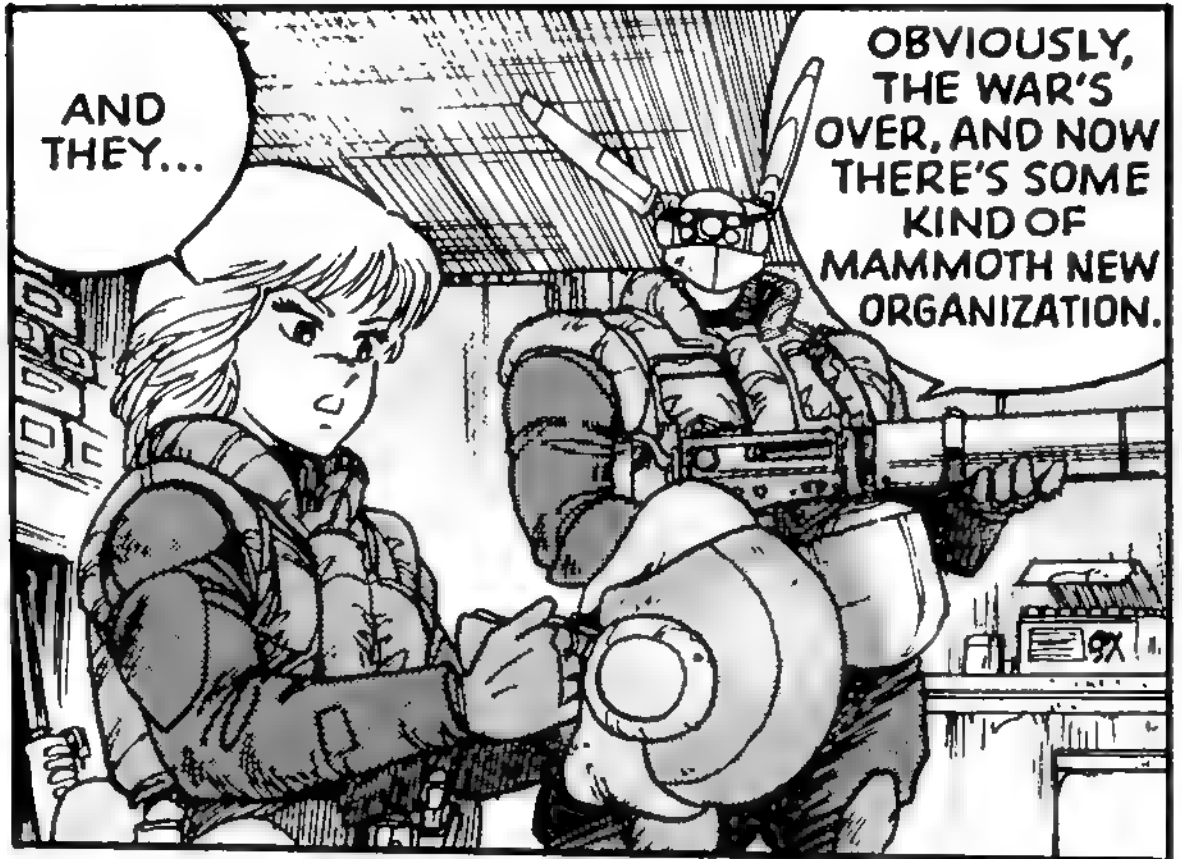
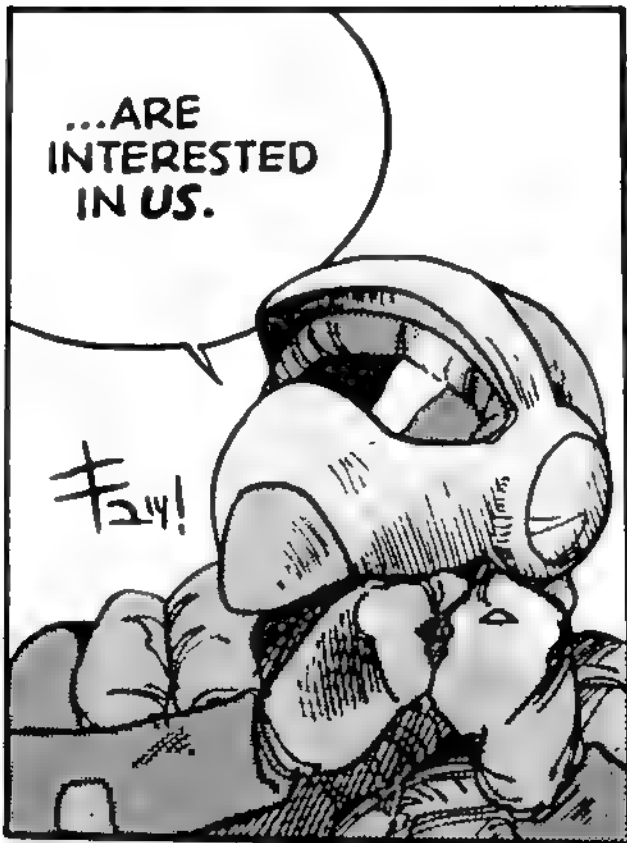
*FX BAM



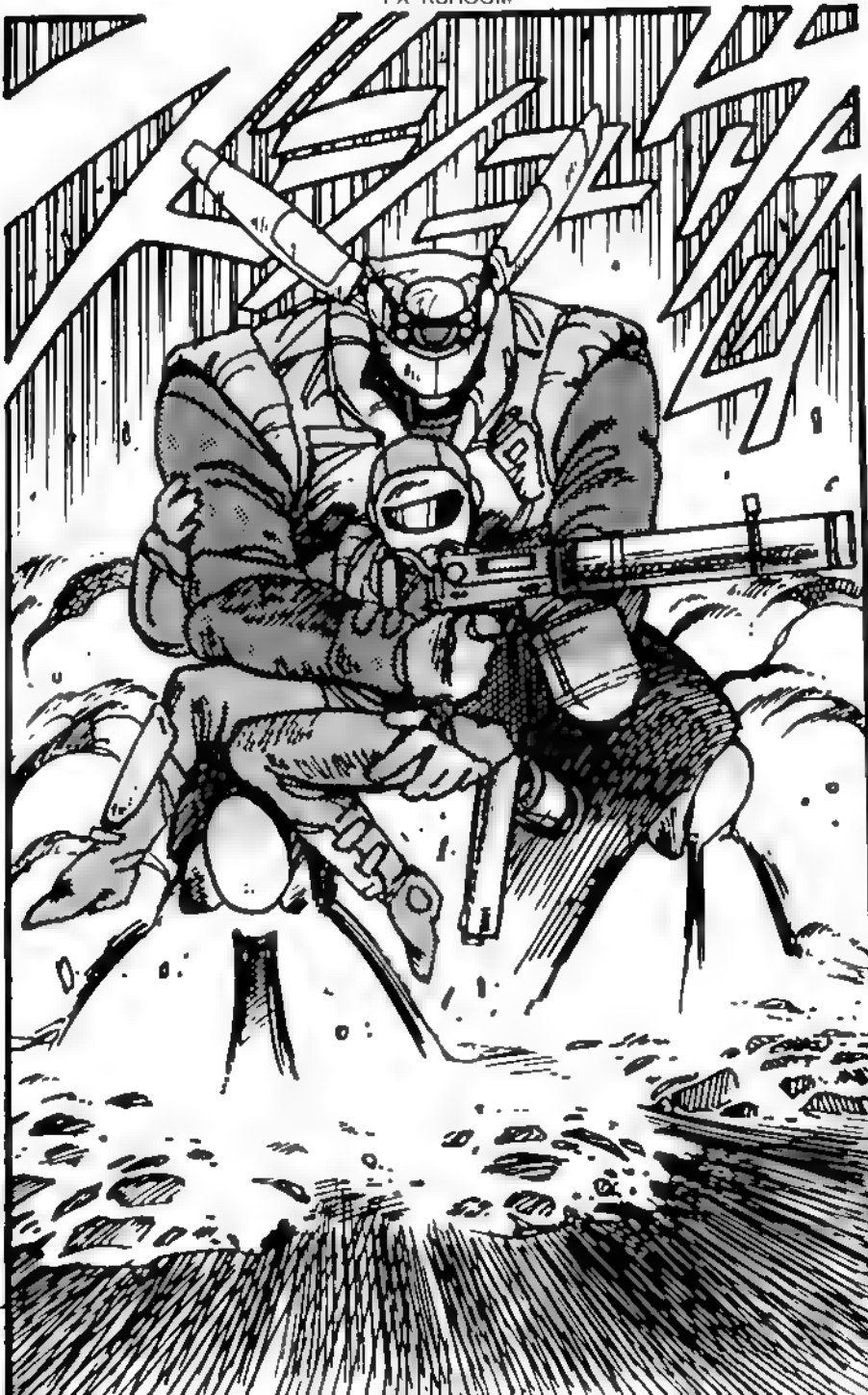
*FX CLIK

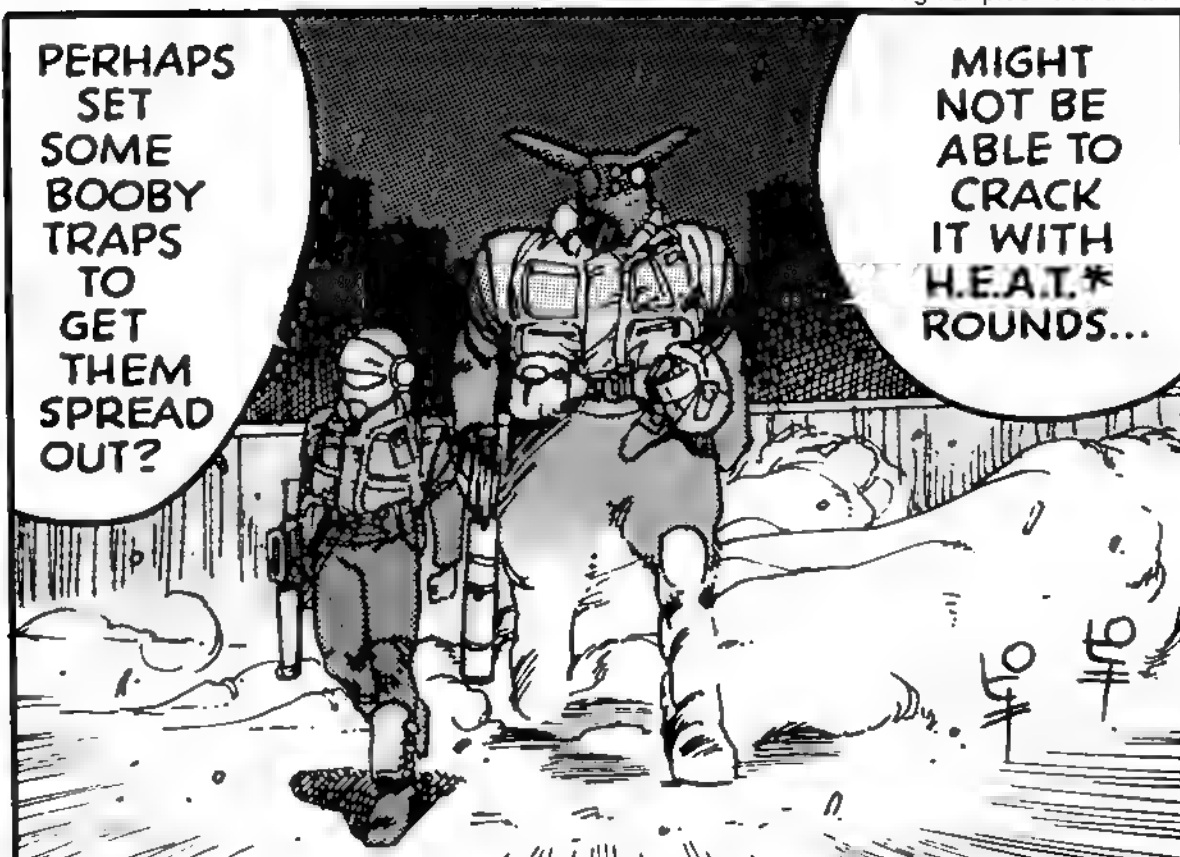


*FX CLICK



*FX KSHOOM





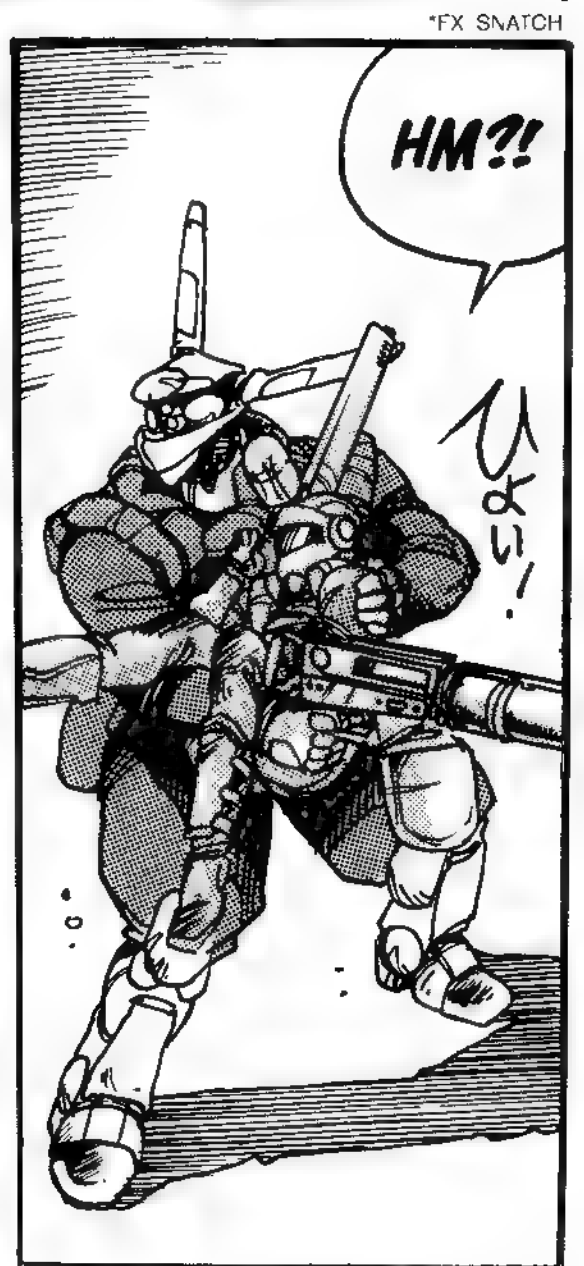
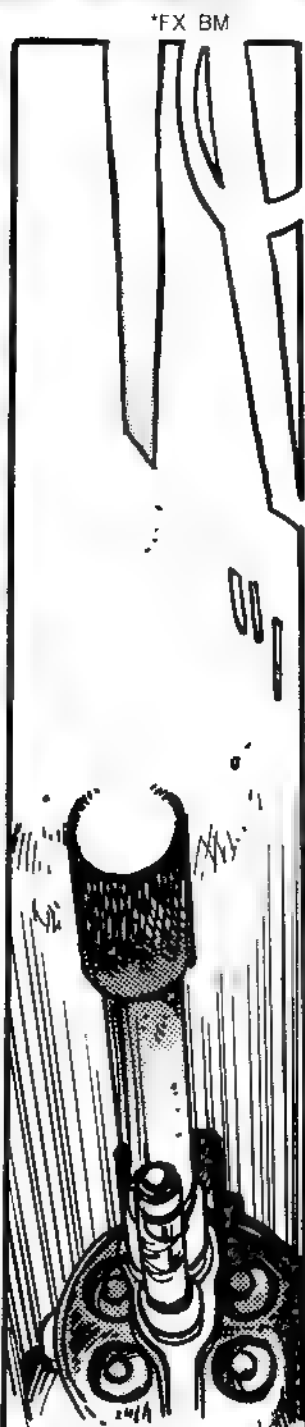
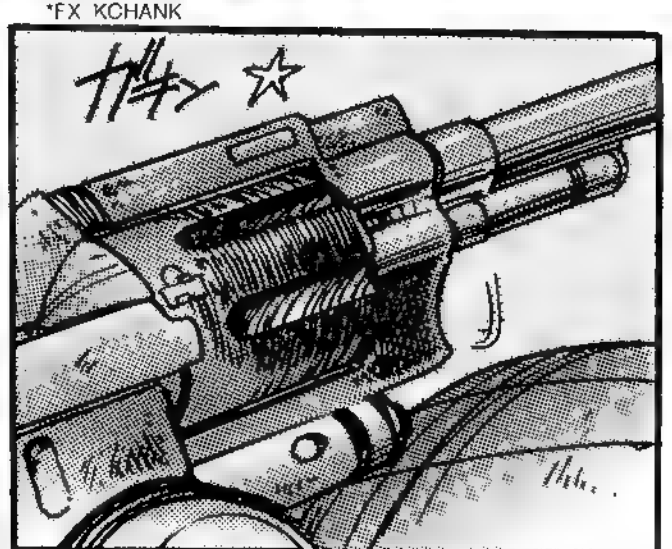
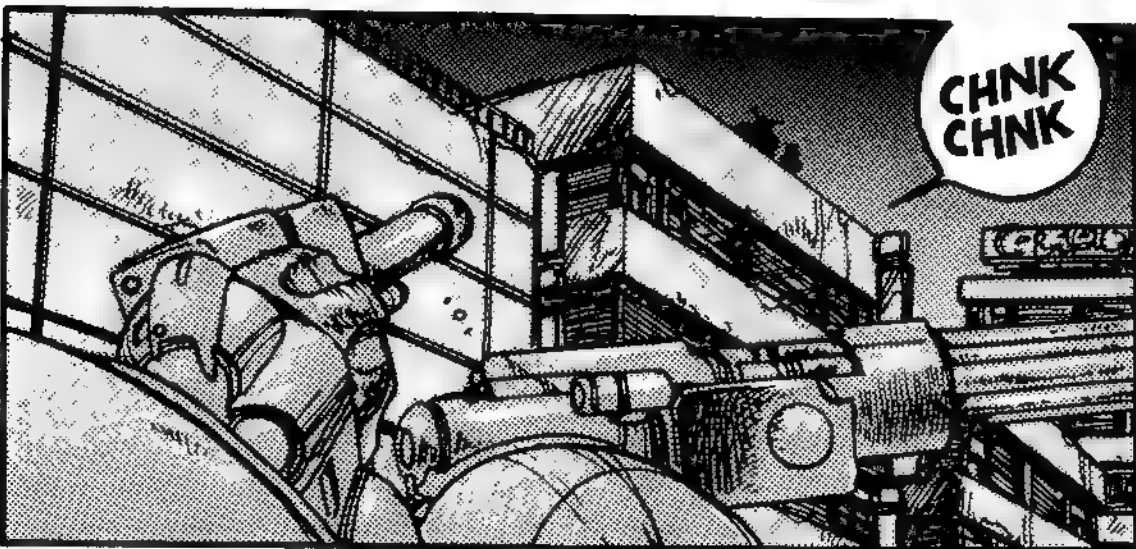
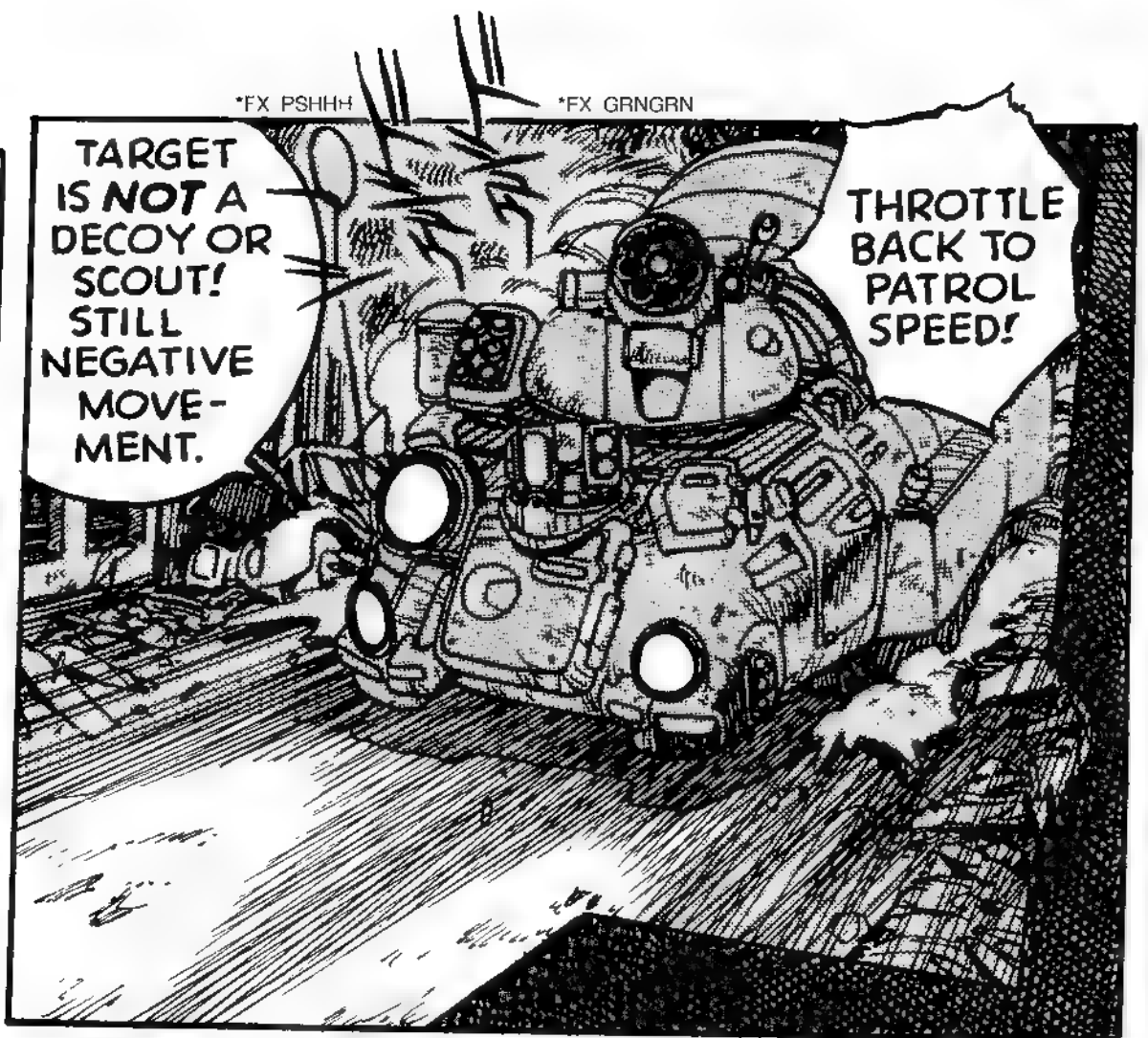
*FX GNGNGN

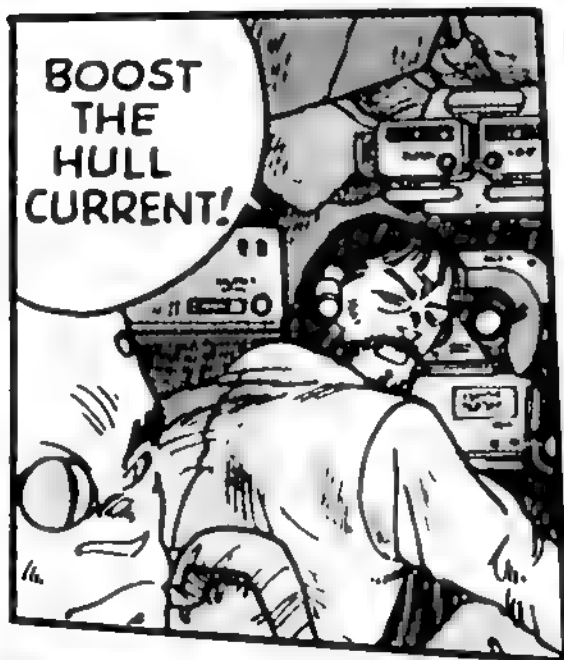
*FX SPKK SPKK



*FX TKTKTK *FX BEEP



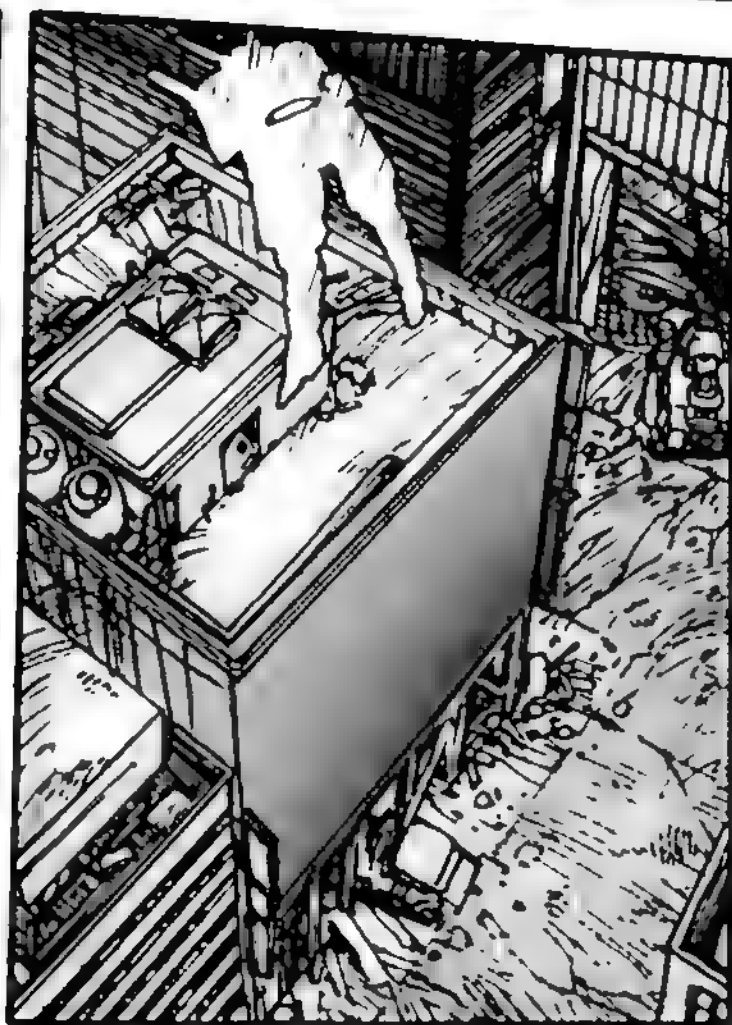
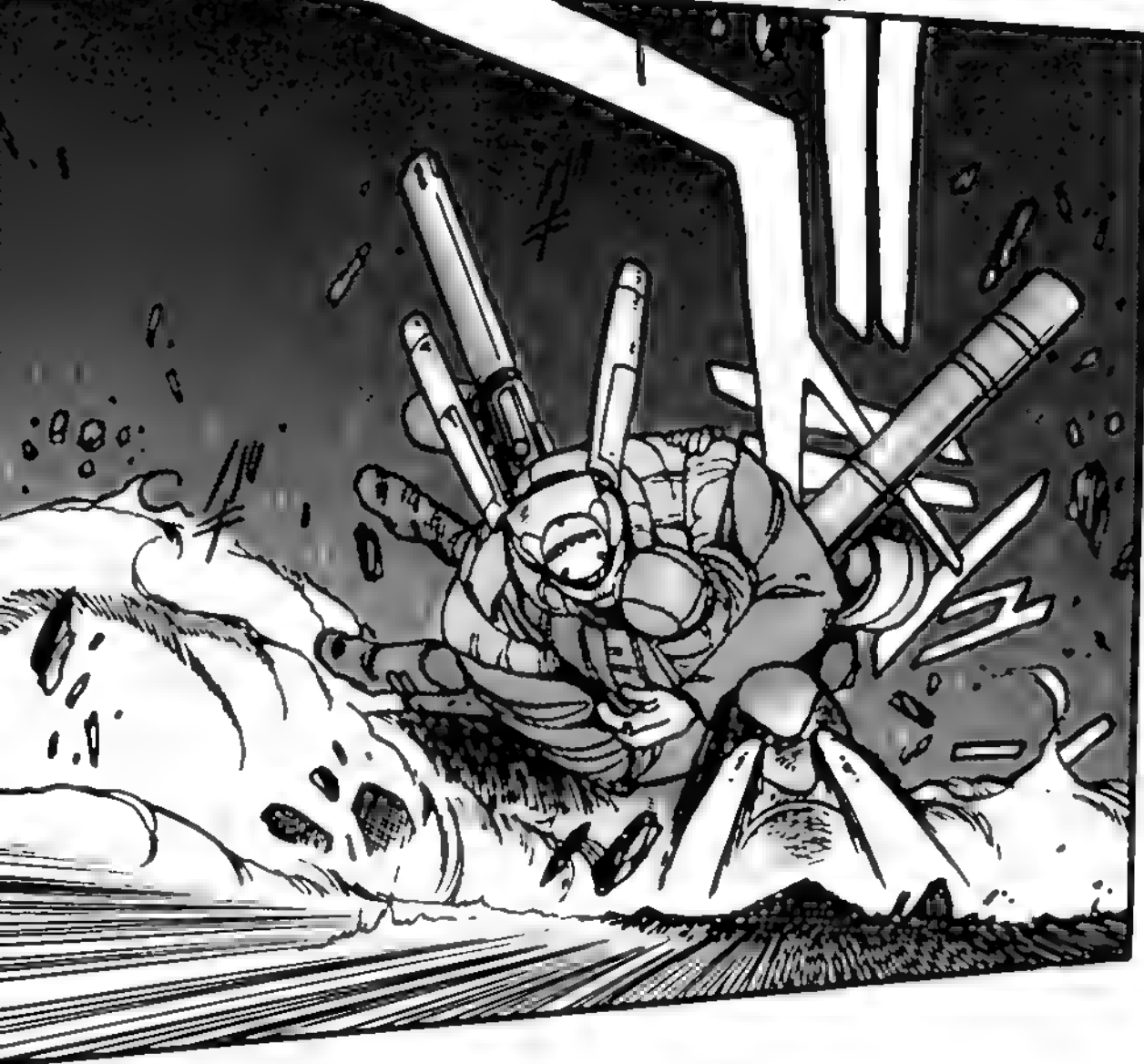




*FX KRAK KRAK



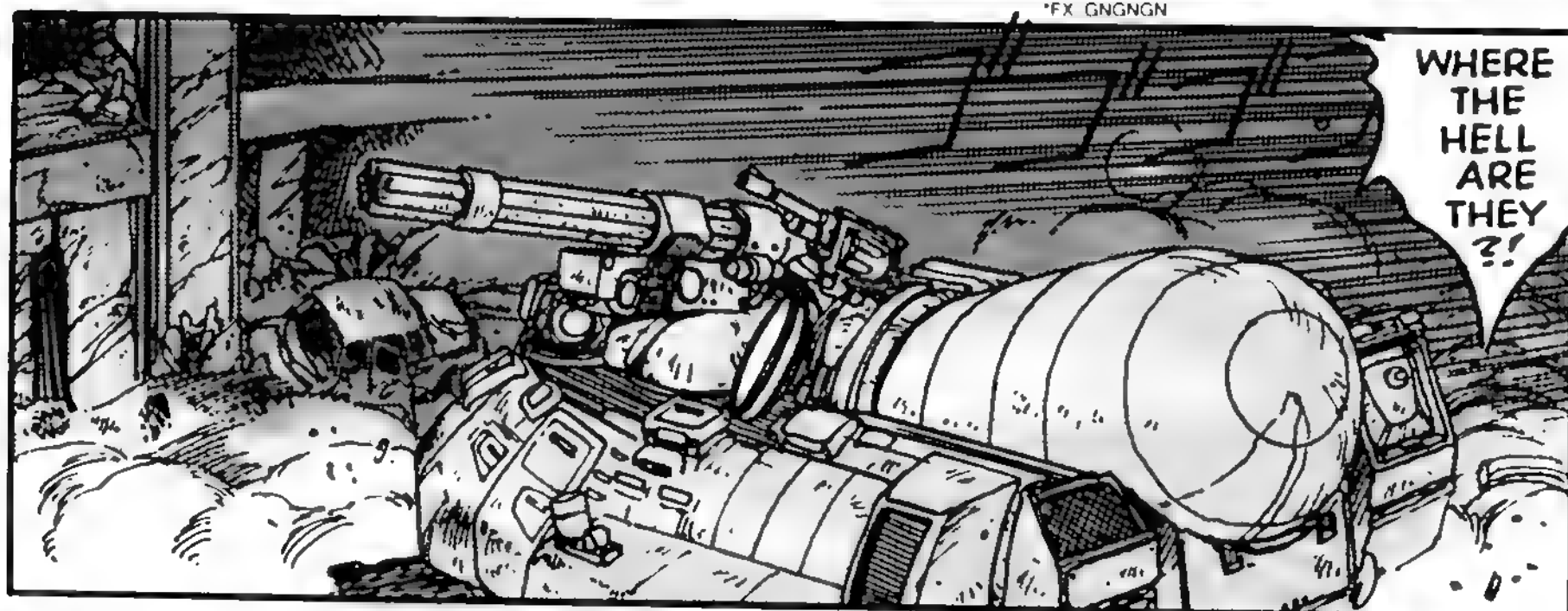
*FX FOOM



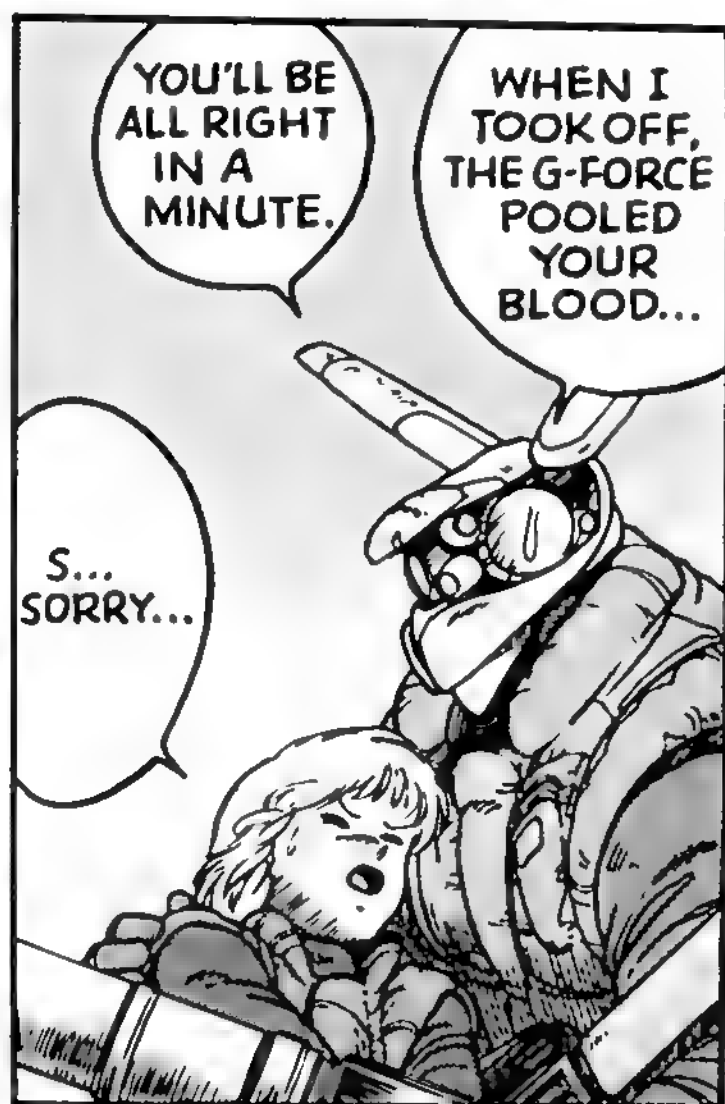
*FX UHH



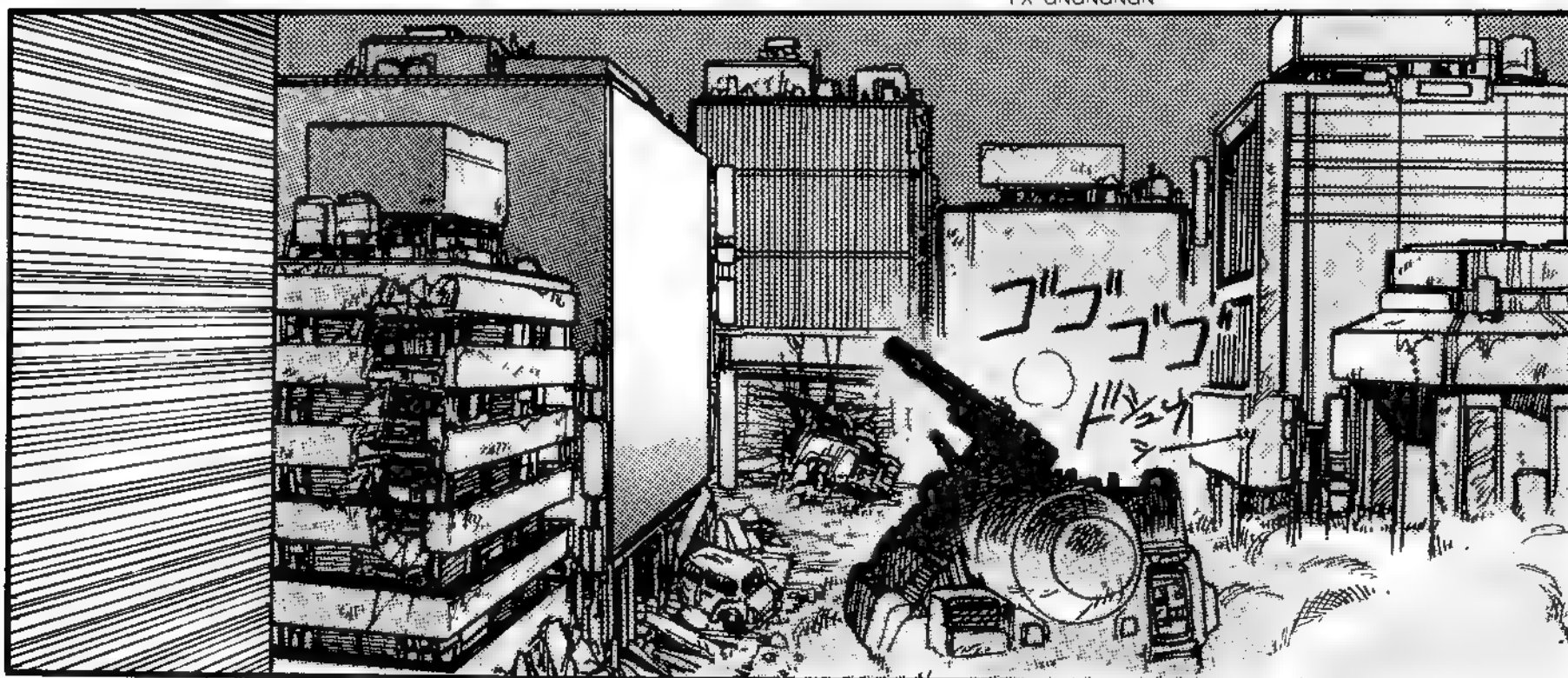
*FX GNGNGN



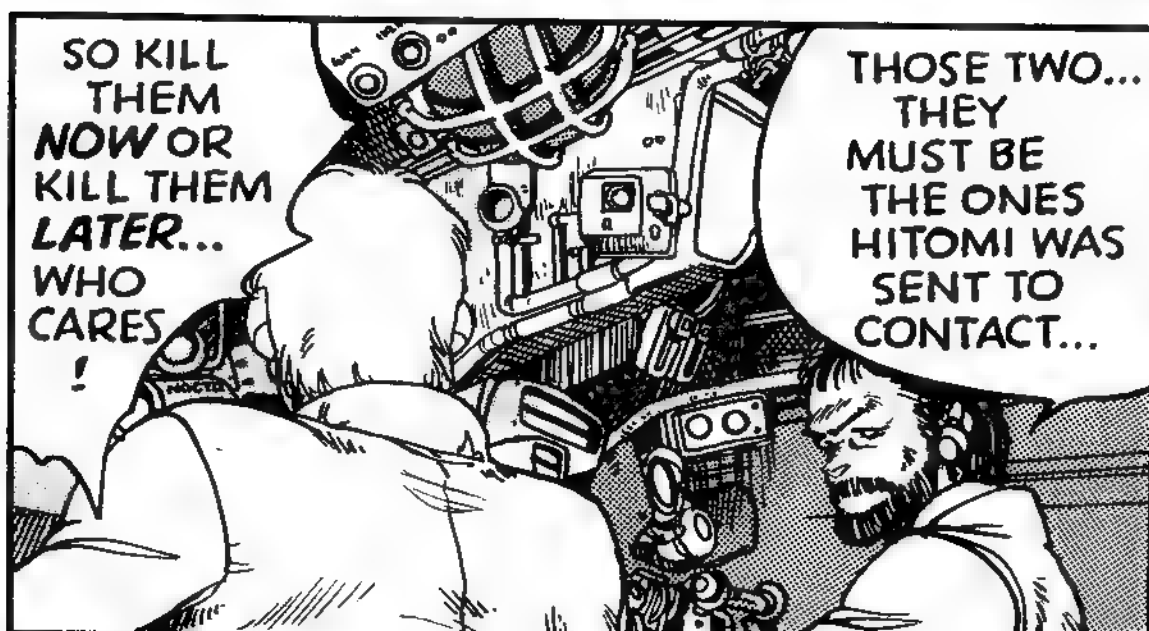
*FX FASH



*g=Unit of gravity acceleration—980cm/sec². Grayout occurs from 5g and up.



*FX VZZZT SSSSSSS



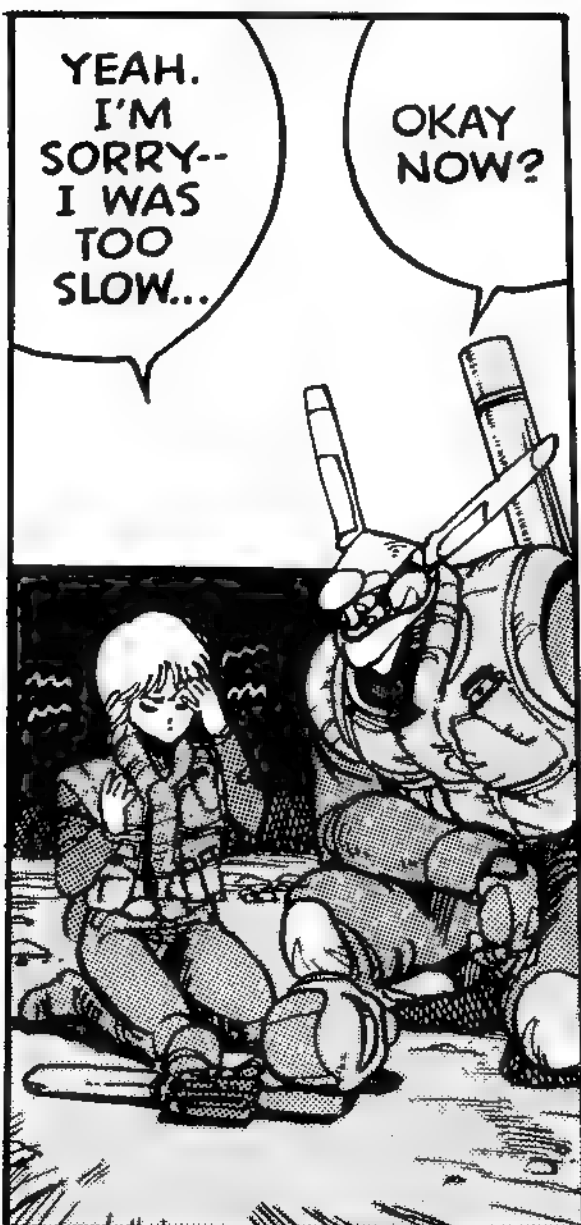
SO KILL THEM NOW OR KILL THEM LATER... WHO CARES !

THOSE TWO... THEY MUST BE THE ONES HITOMI WAS SENT TO CONTACT...



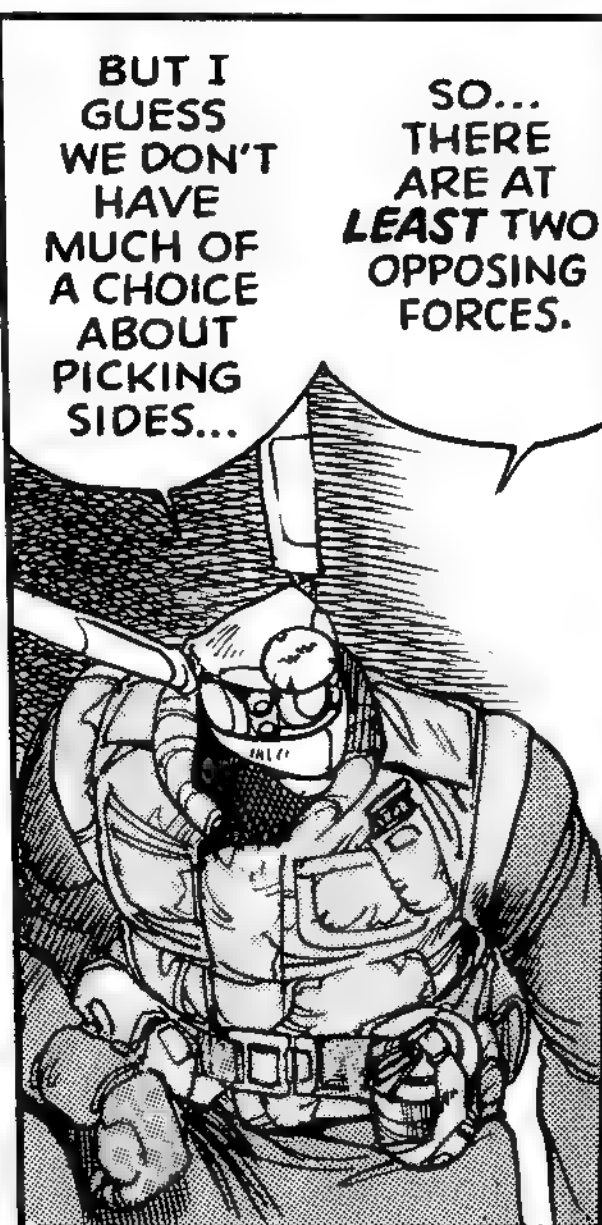
ALL QUIET. NO RESPONSE AT ALL.

YOU READ ANYTHING?



YEAH. I'M SORRY-- I WAS TOO SLOW...

OKAY NOW?



BUT I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE ABOUT PICKING SIDES...

SO... THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO OPPOSING FORCES.



NO! NO! TAKE 'EM OUT RIGHT NOW ...!

WAIT! WE CAN USE THEM AS BAIT TO GET HITOMI!



DON'T
GET
ME
BY
MISTAKE,
OKAY?



I'LL
BE
WAITING.

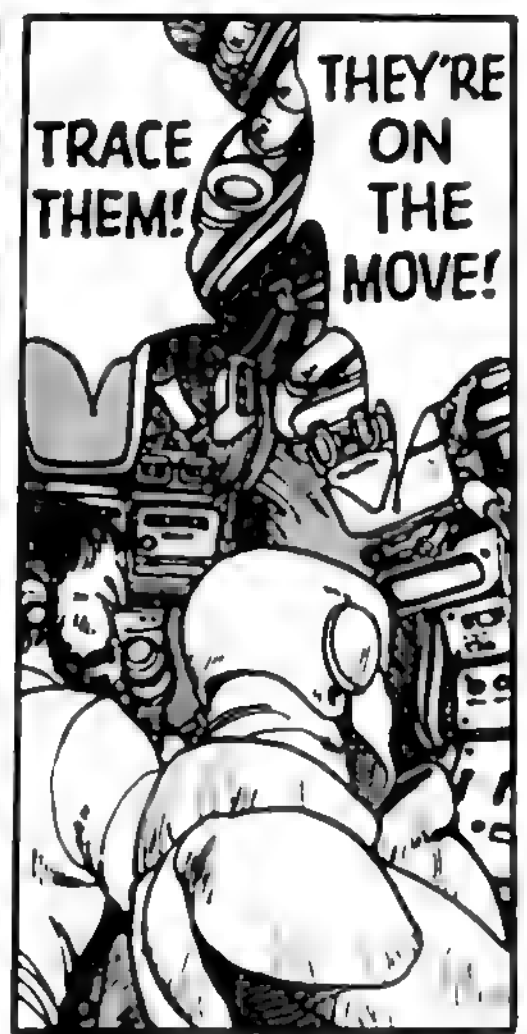
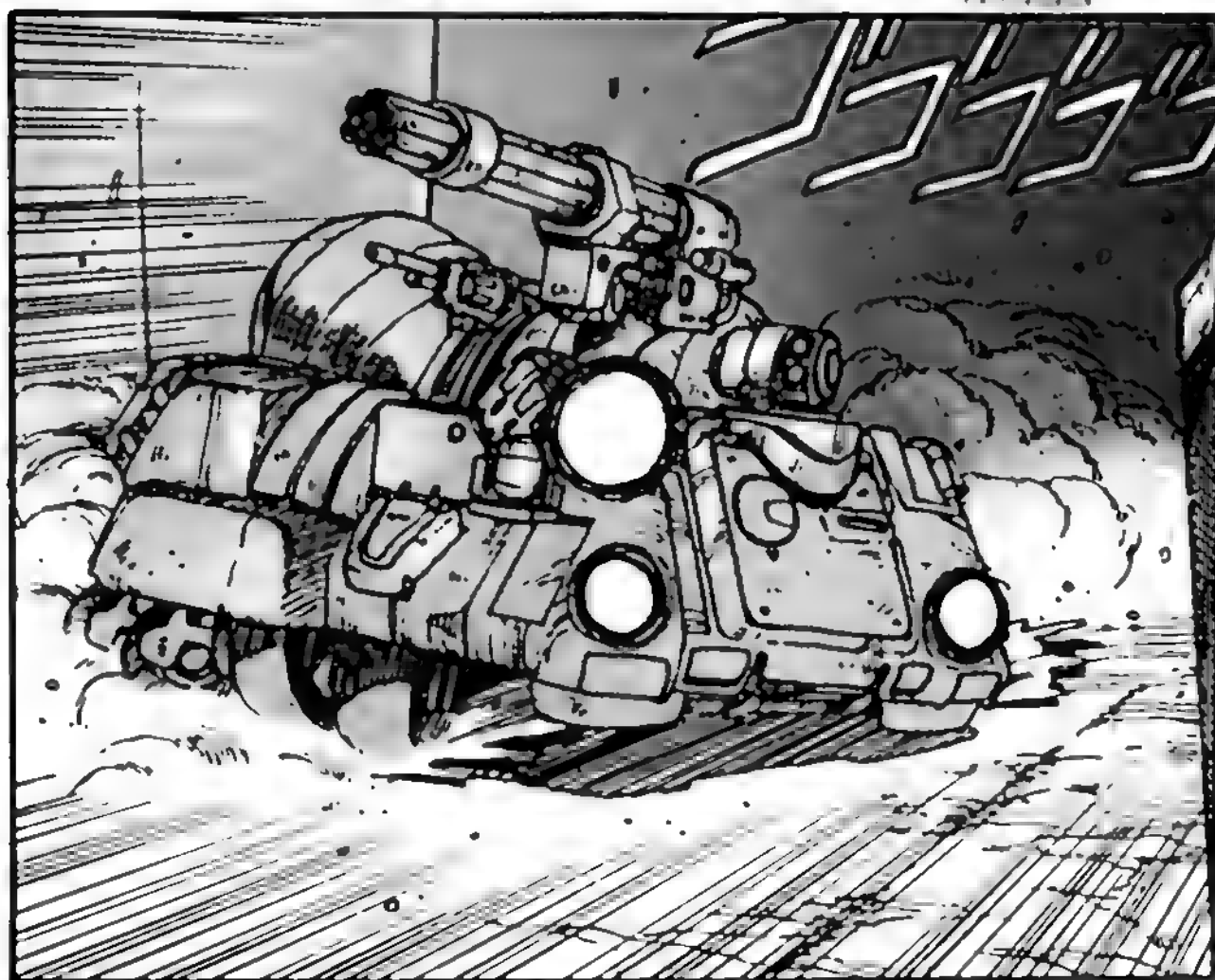
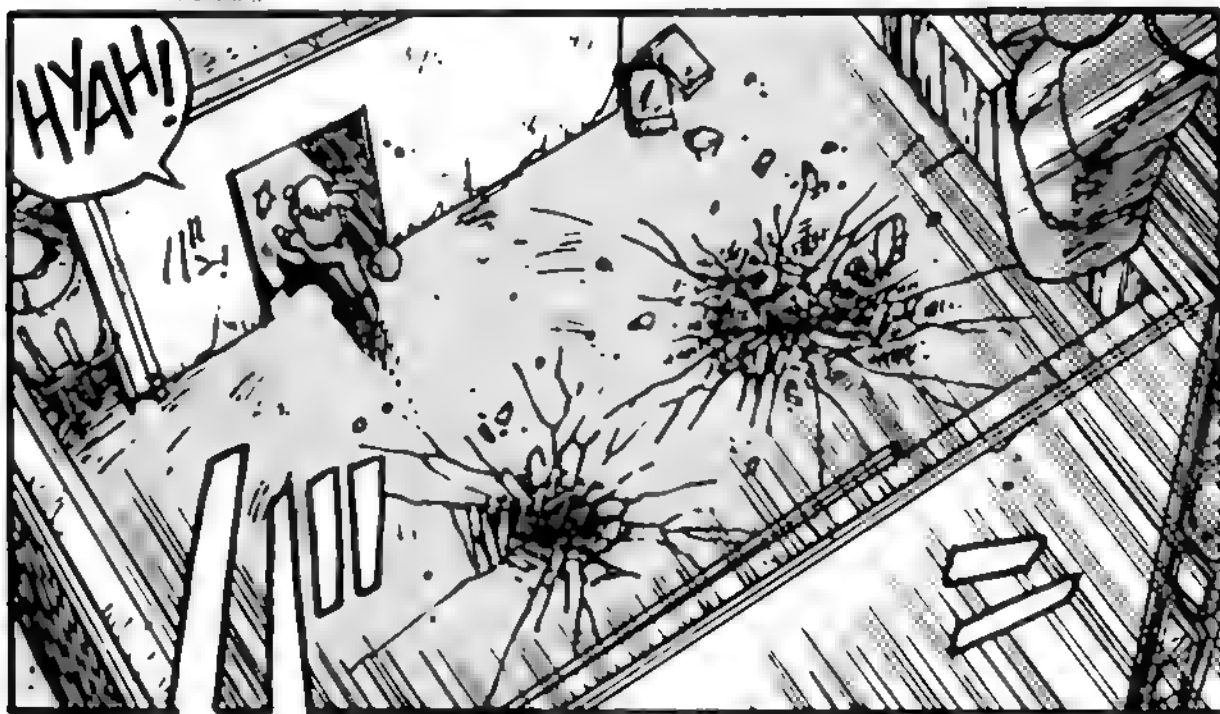
GO
FOR
IT.



I'LL TRY.
THE
NORTH
END OF
CENTRAL
LOOKS
GOOD.



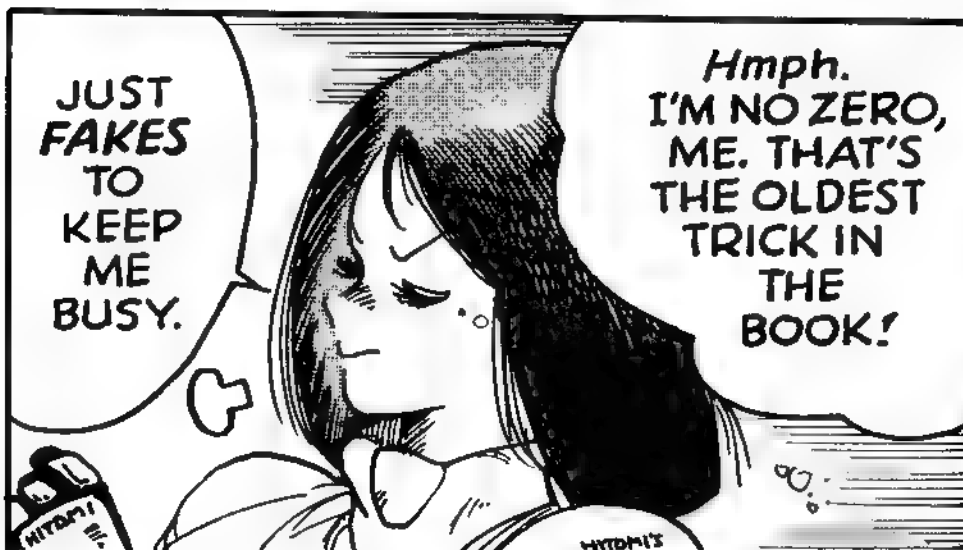
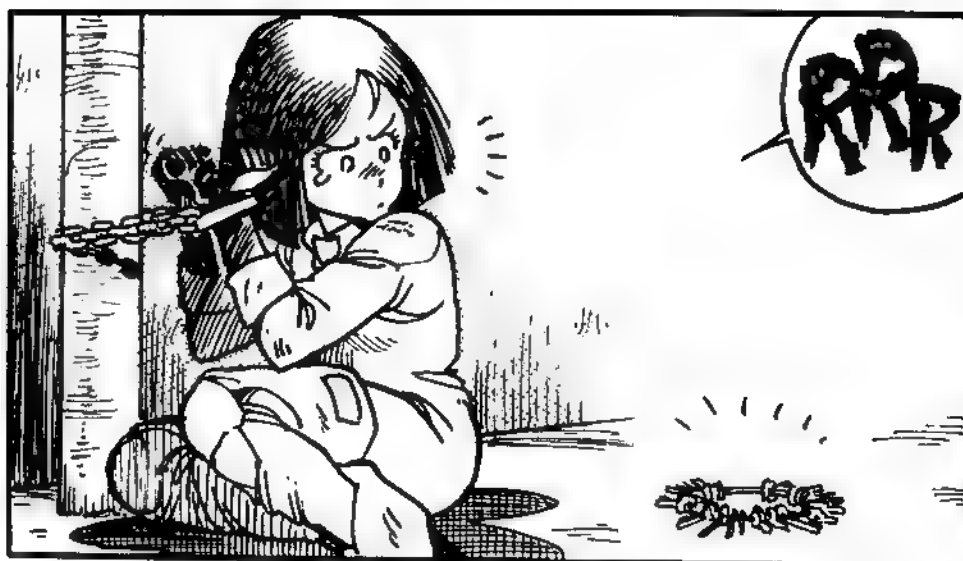
THAT THING'S
AN ANTIQUE, BUT
IT'S BUILT FOR
STREET FIGHTING.
CAN YOU MAKE
POSITION
IN FIVE
MINUTES?



TRACE
THEM!

THEY'RE
ON
THE
MOVE!

*FX BLAM BLAM



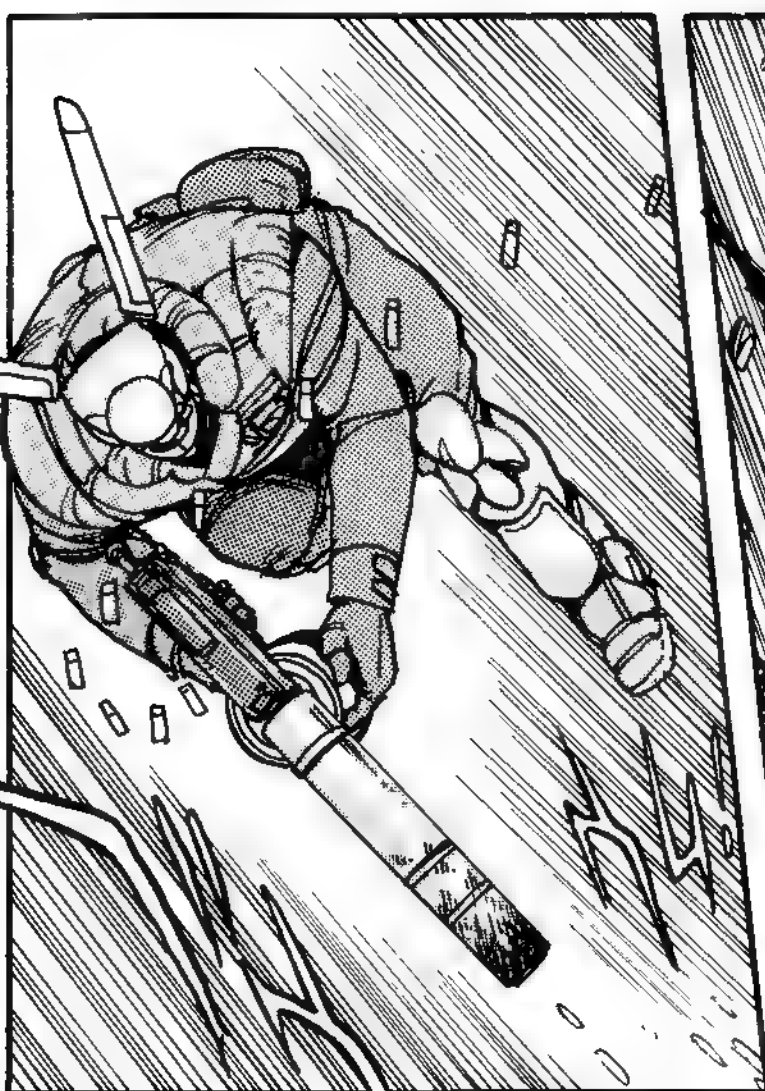
*FX KCHIK KCH K KCHIK KCH K KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK KCHIK

*FX SHANGG

*FX GLANCE

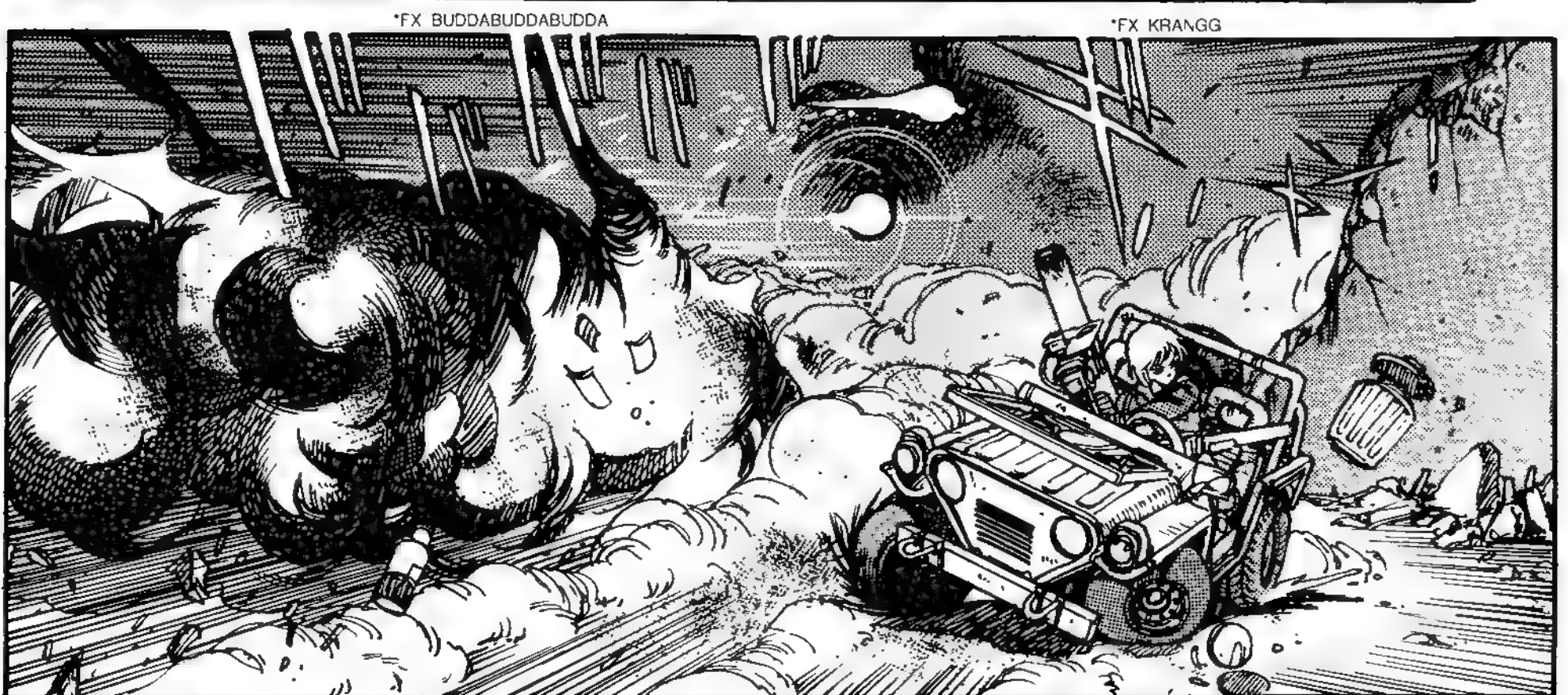
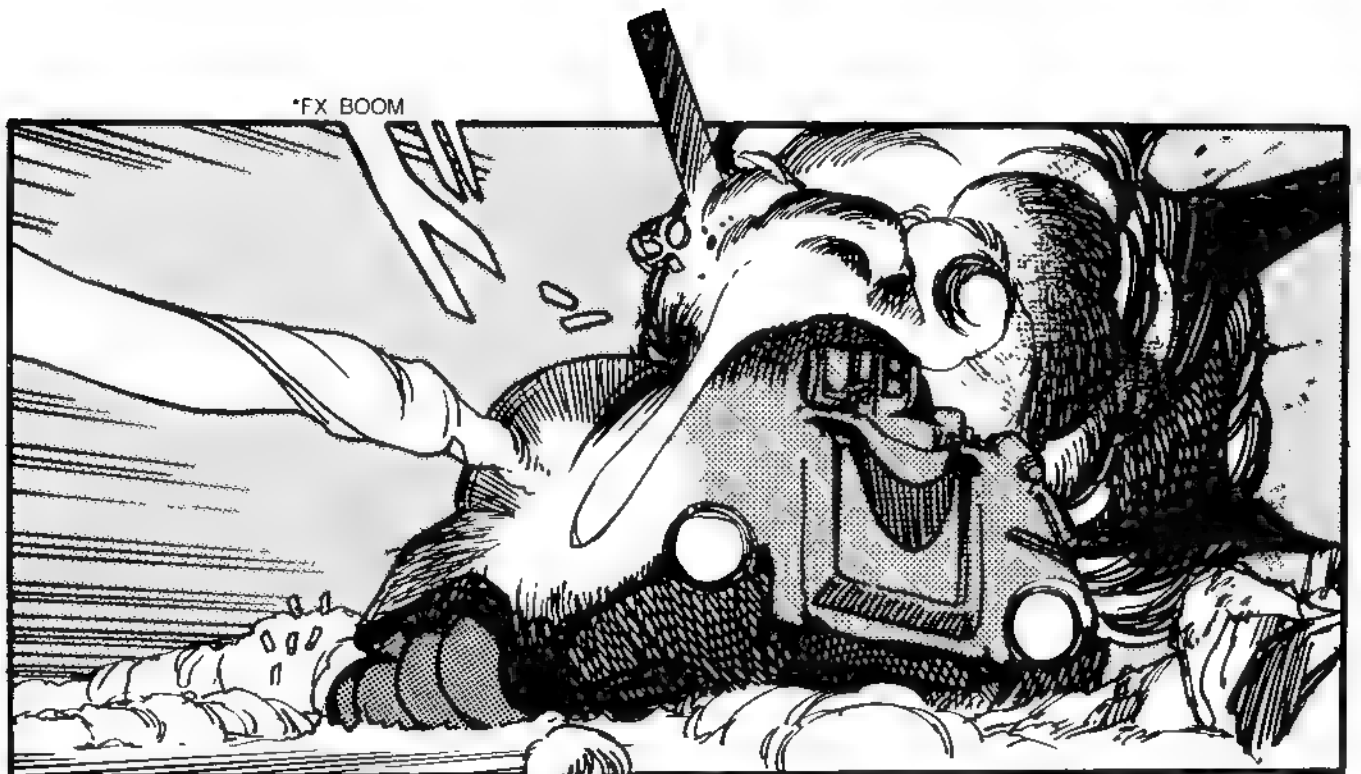


*FX WRAMM

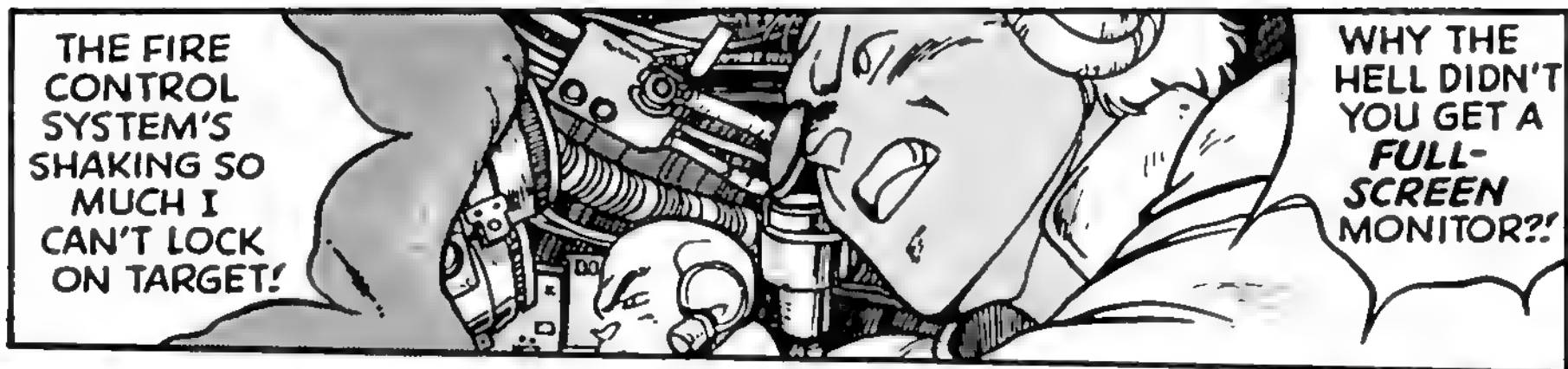


*FX BUDDA BUDDA

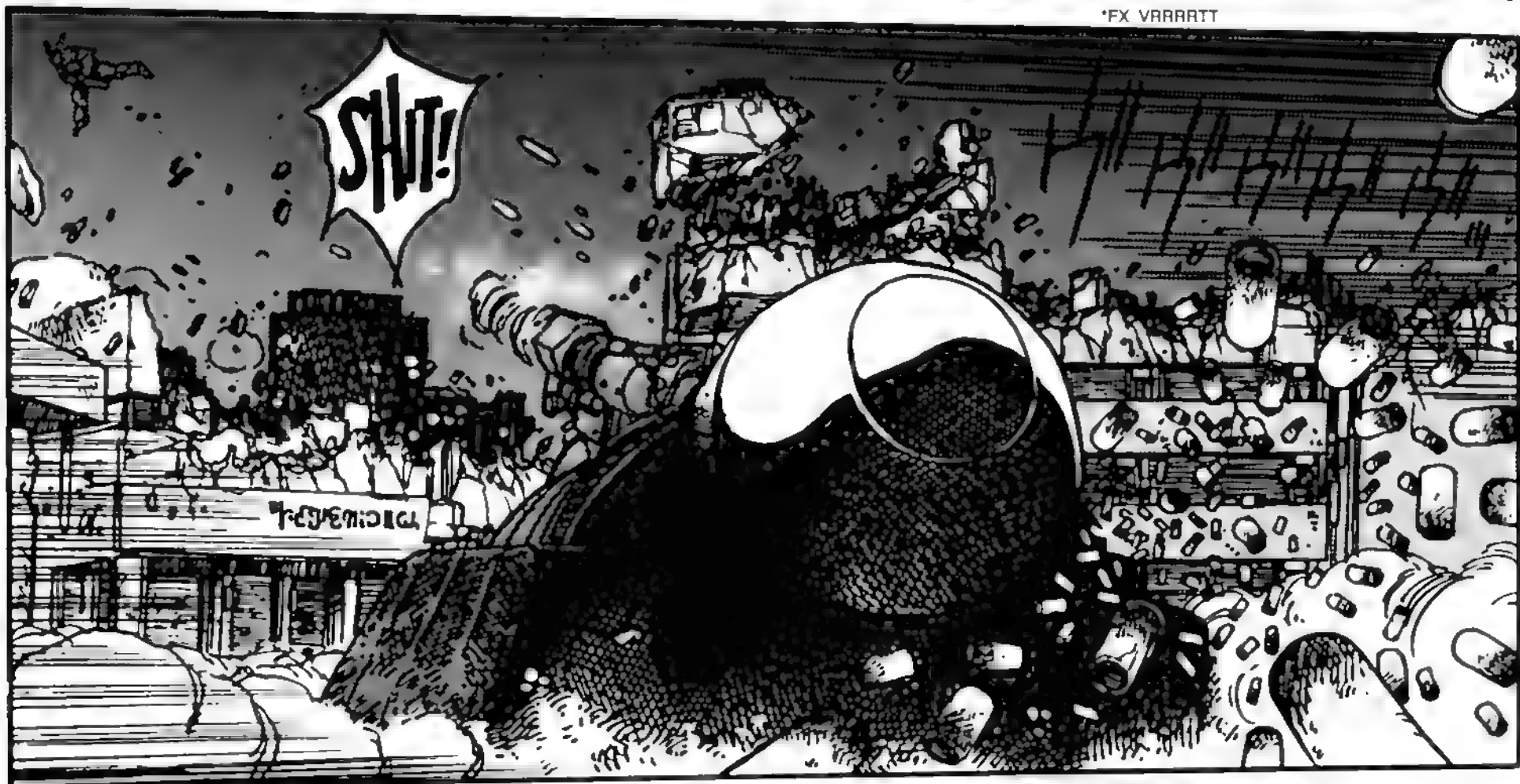




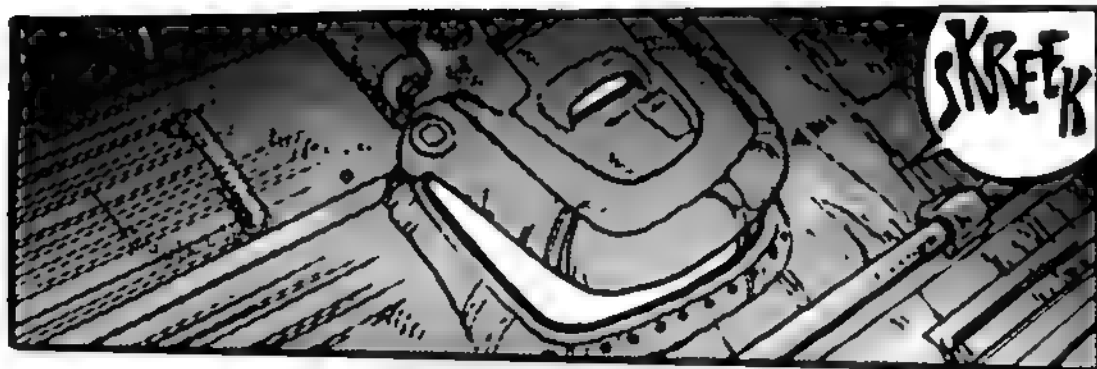
*FX BAM



*FX VRRRTT



*FX VRRRTT

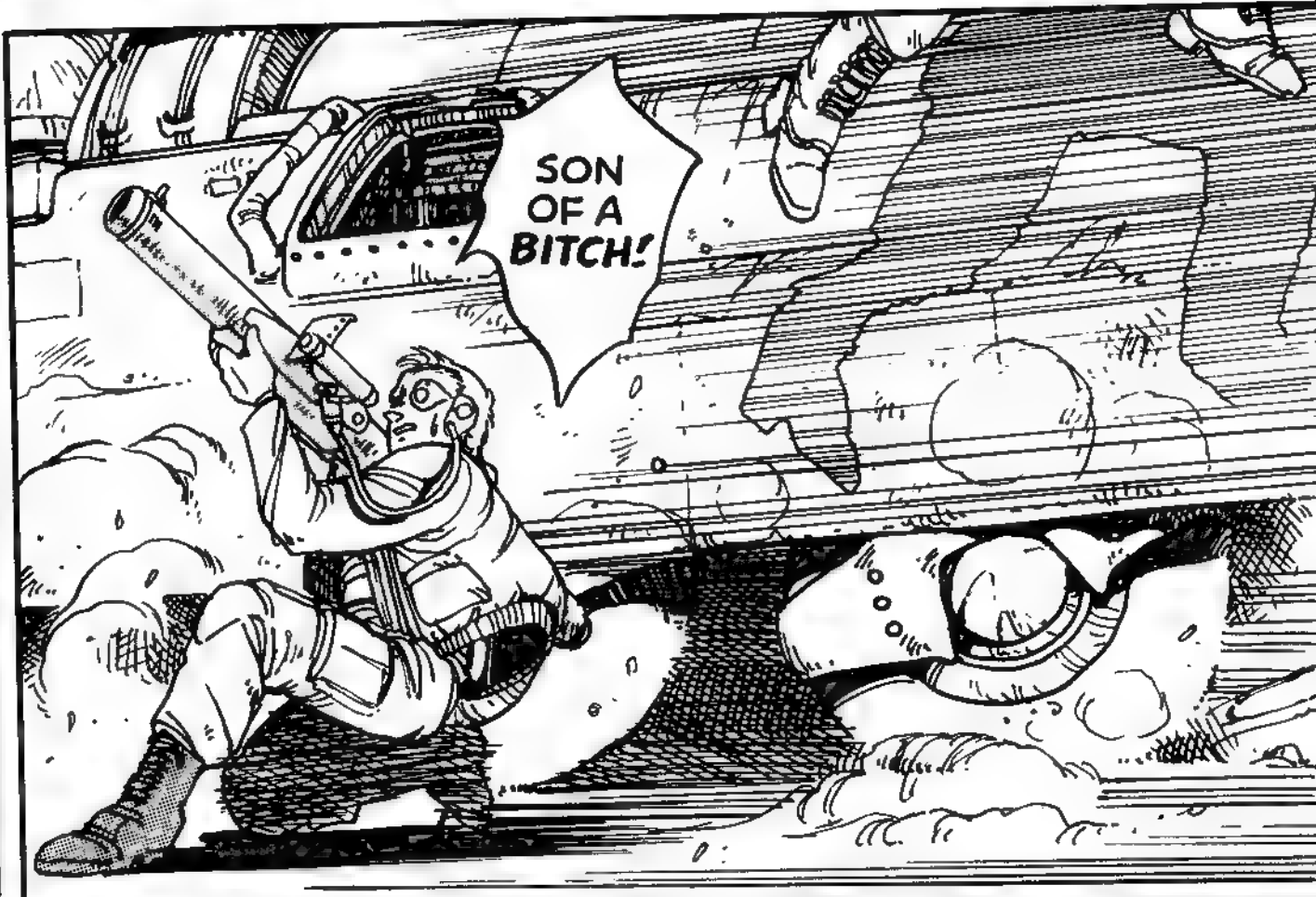
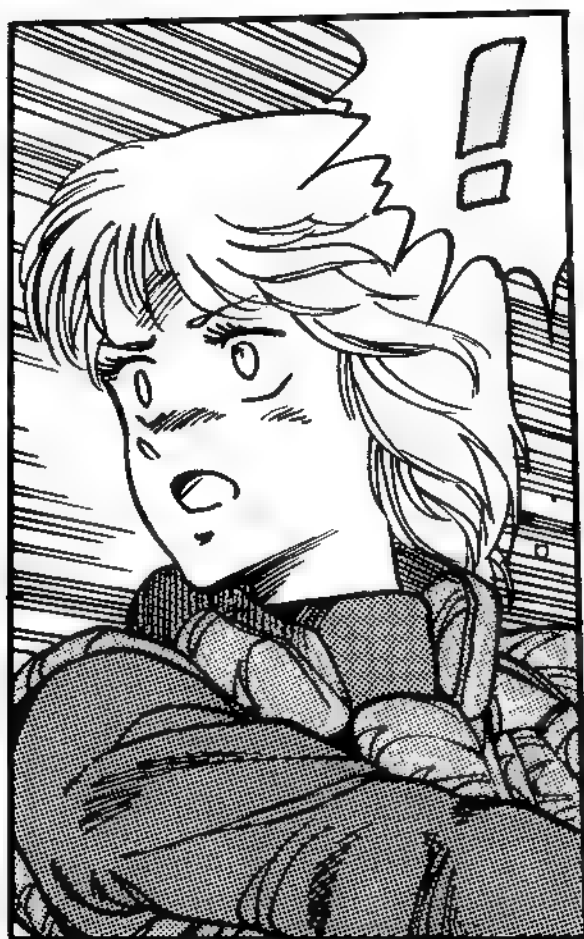
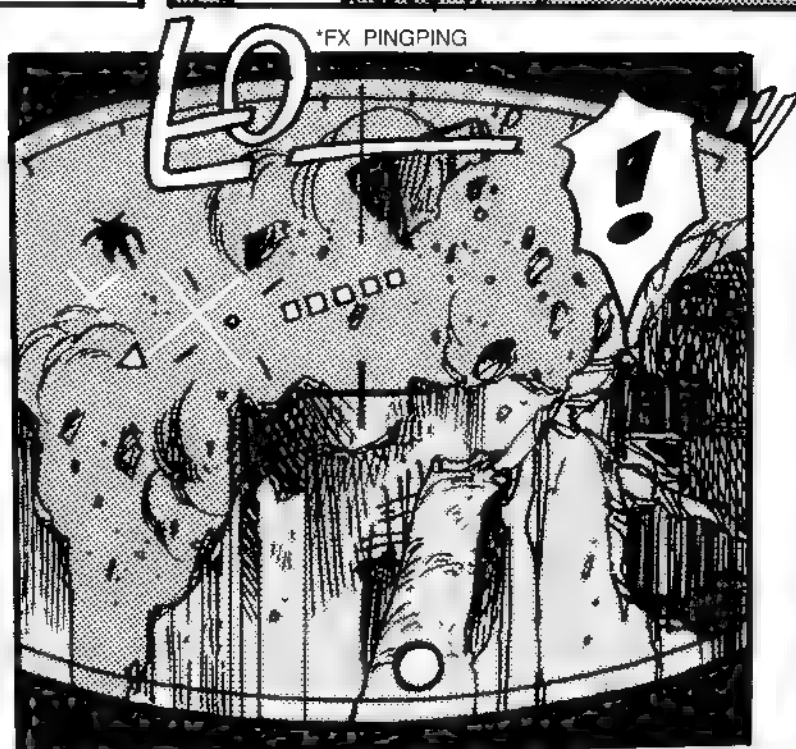
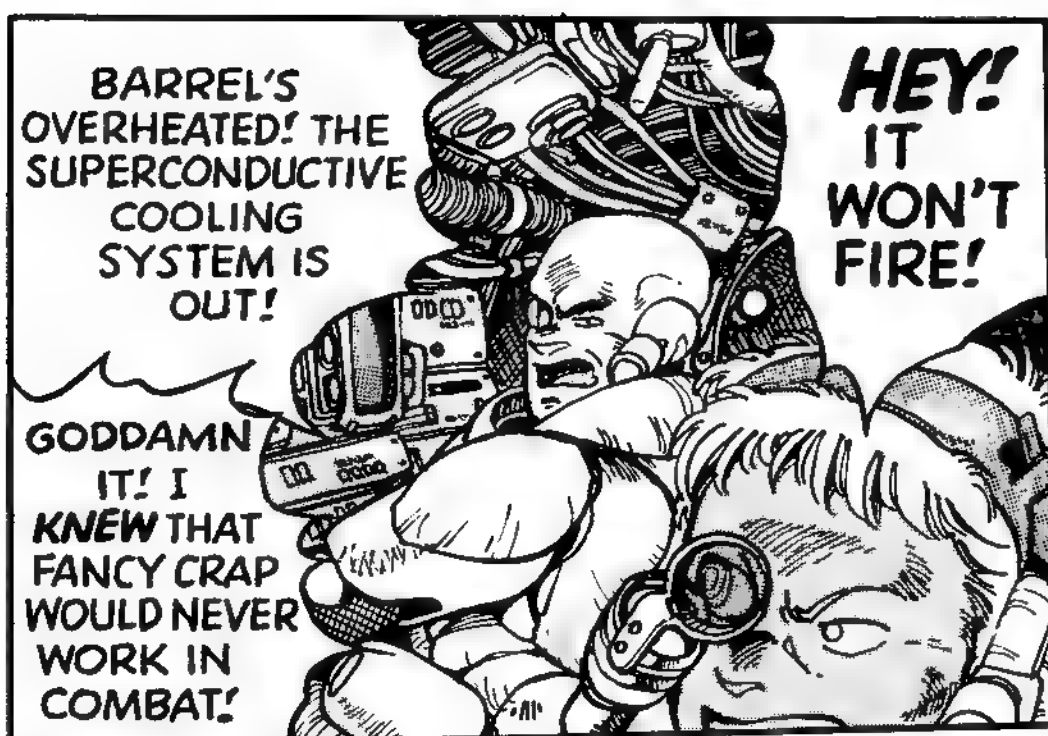
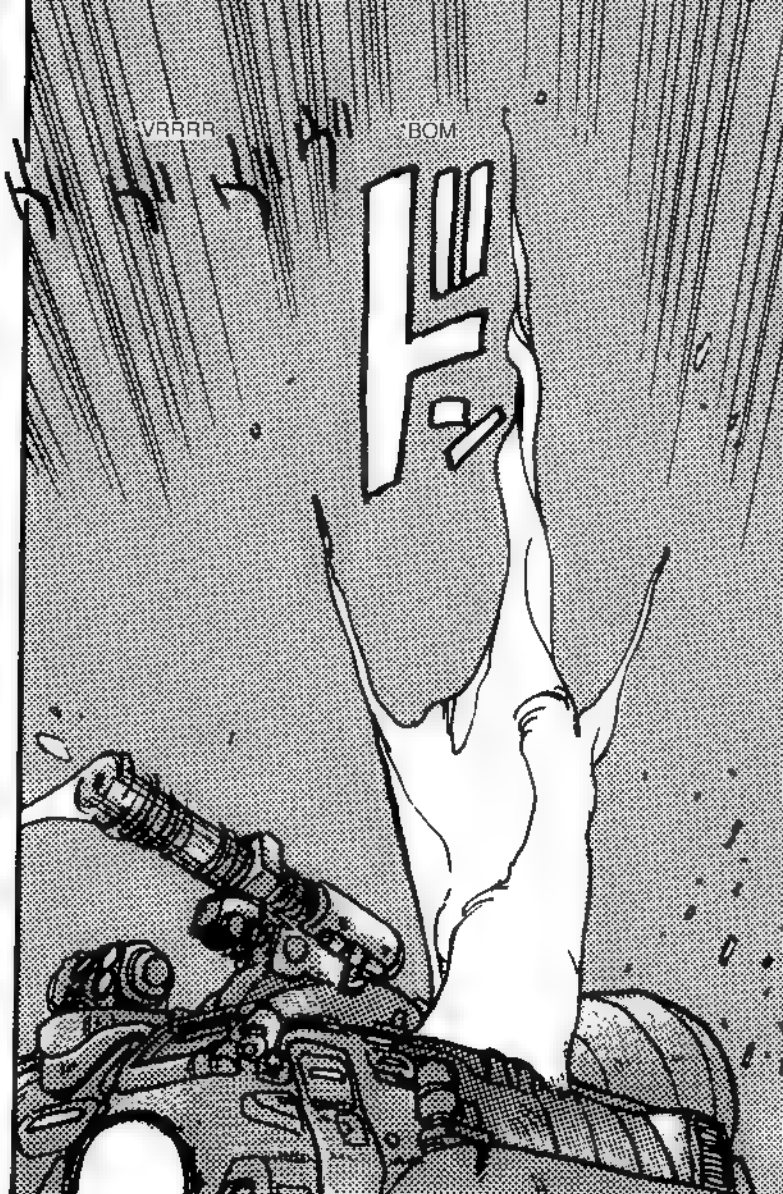


*FX BUDDABJDDA



*FX KCHAK

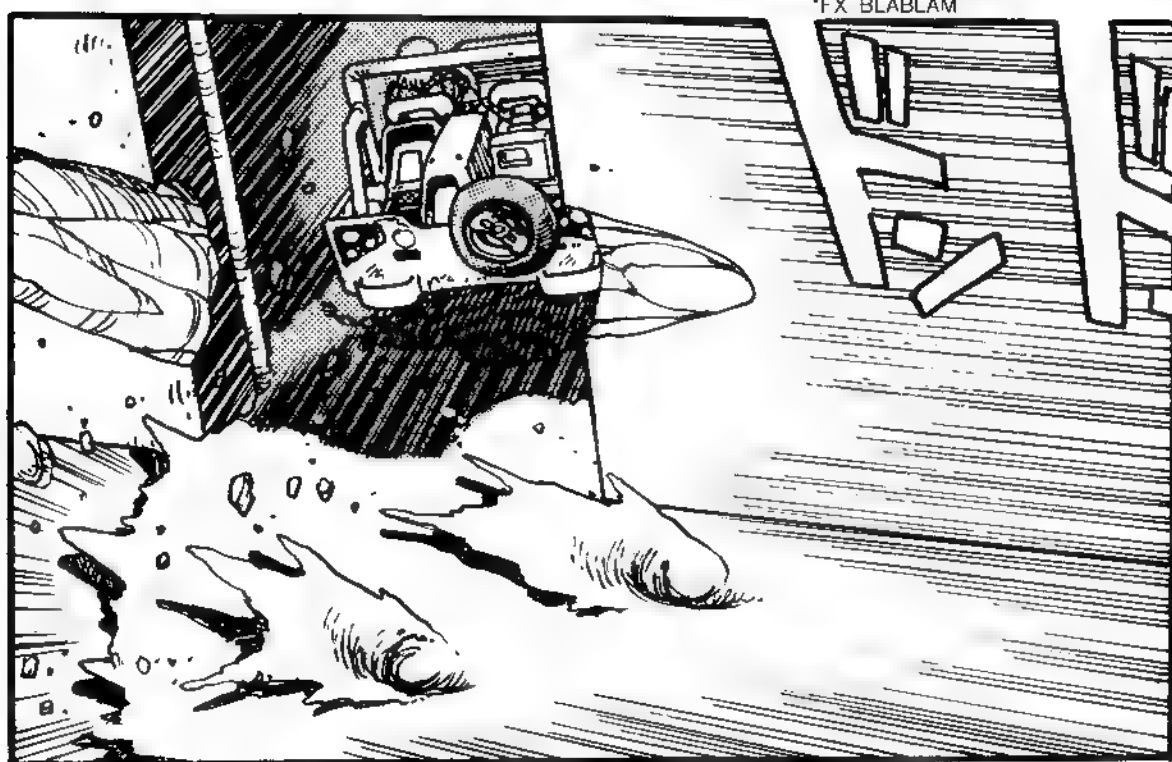
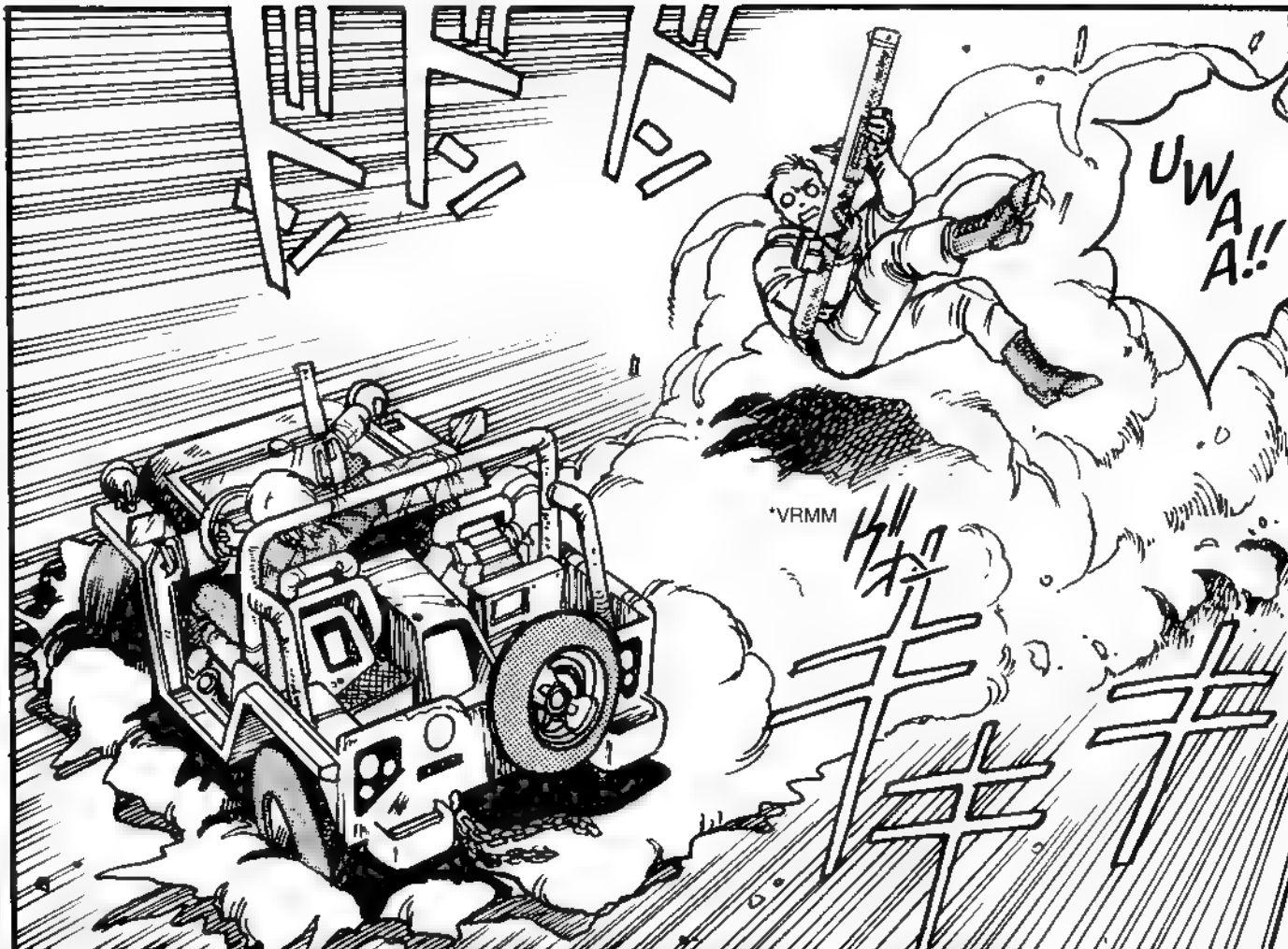




*FX SKREEECH

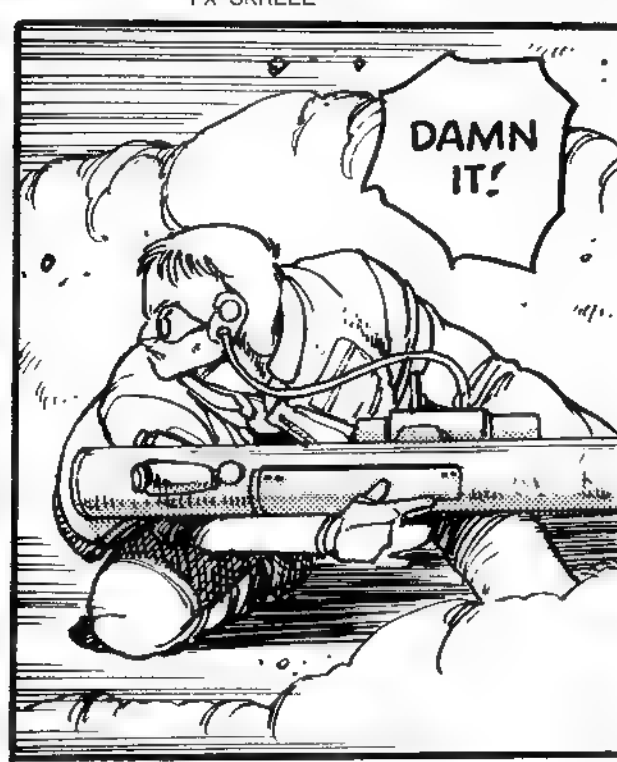
*FX VRMM

*FX BLABLABLAM

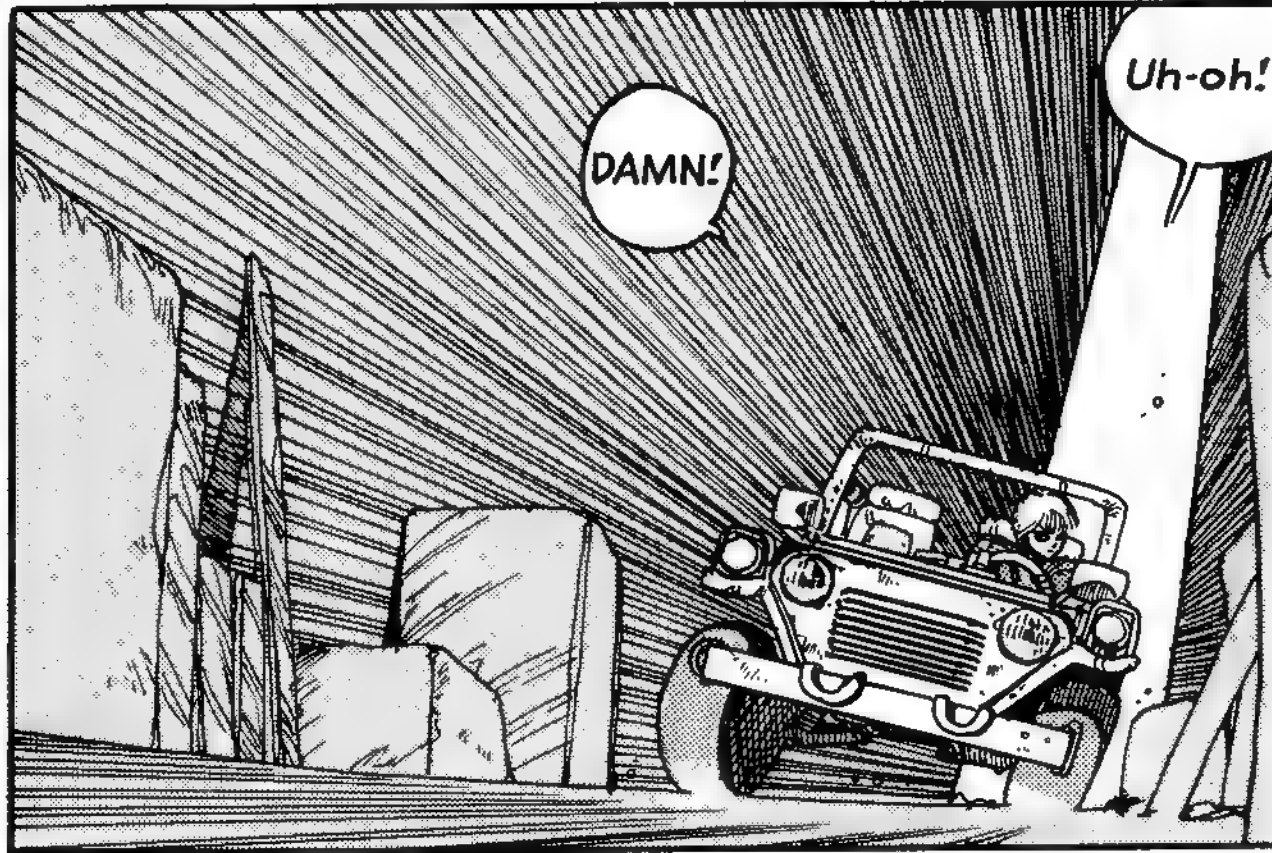


*FX BLABLAM

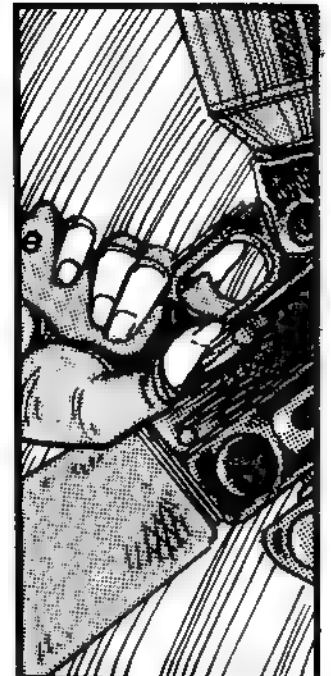
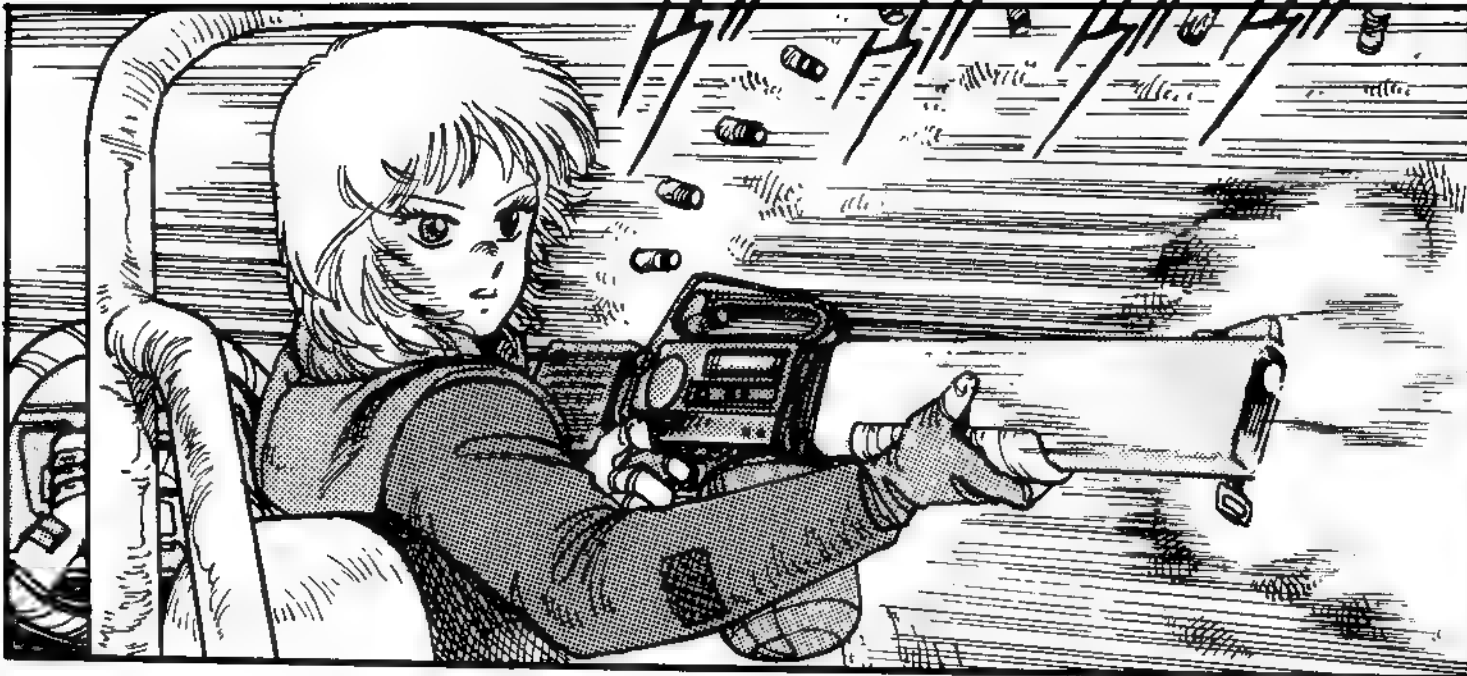
*FX SKREEE



*FX SHMP



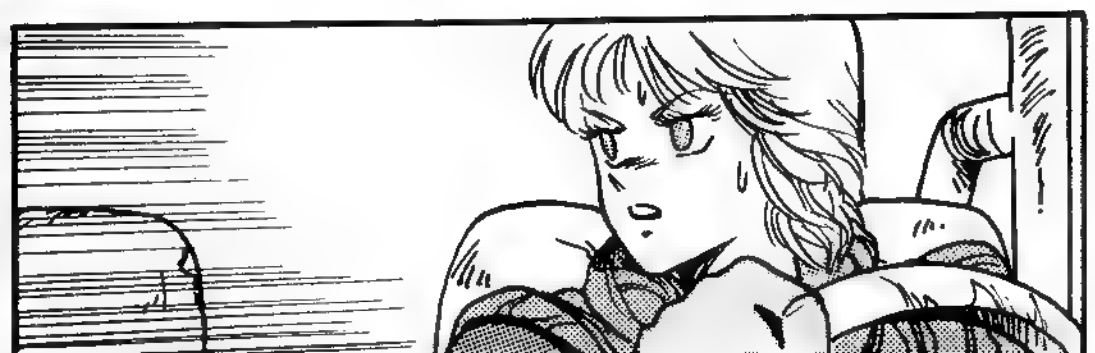
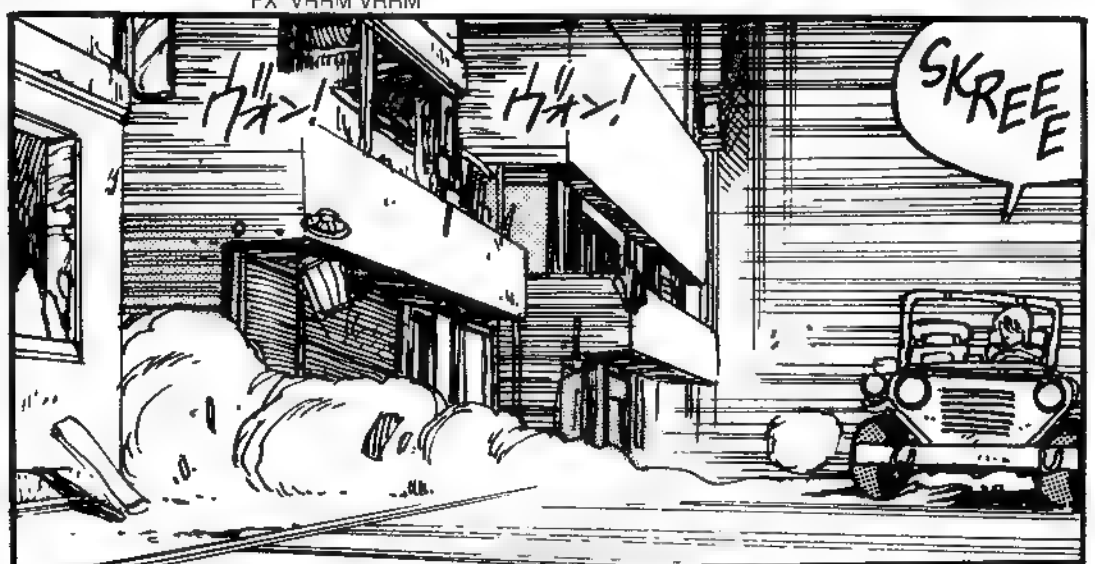
*FX BUDDABUDDA

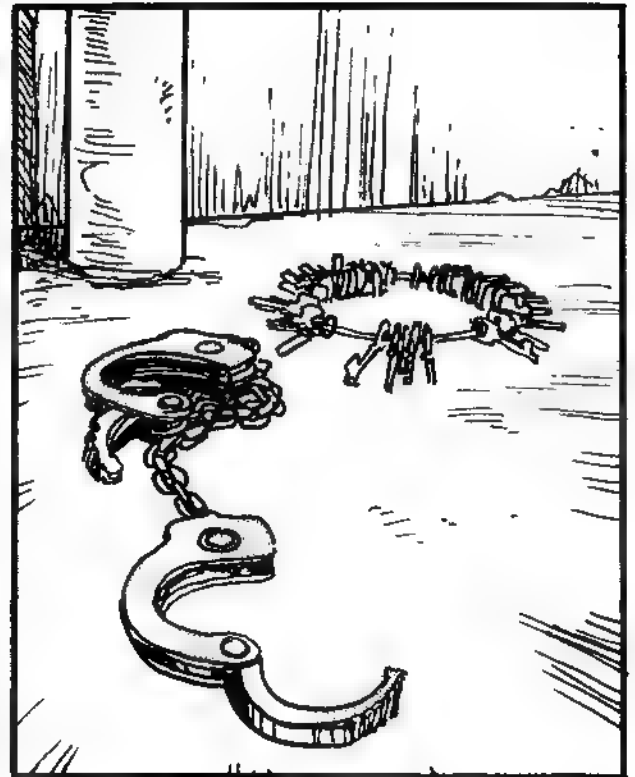
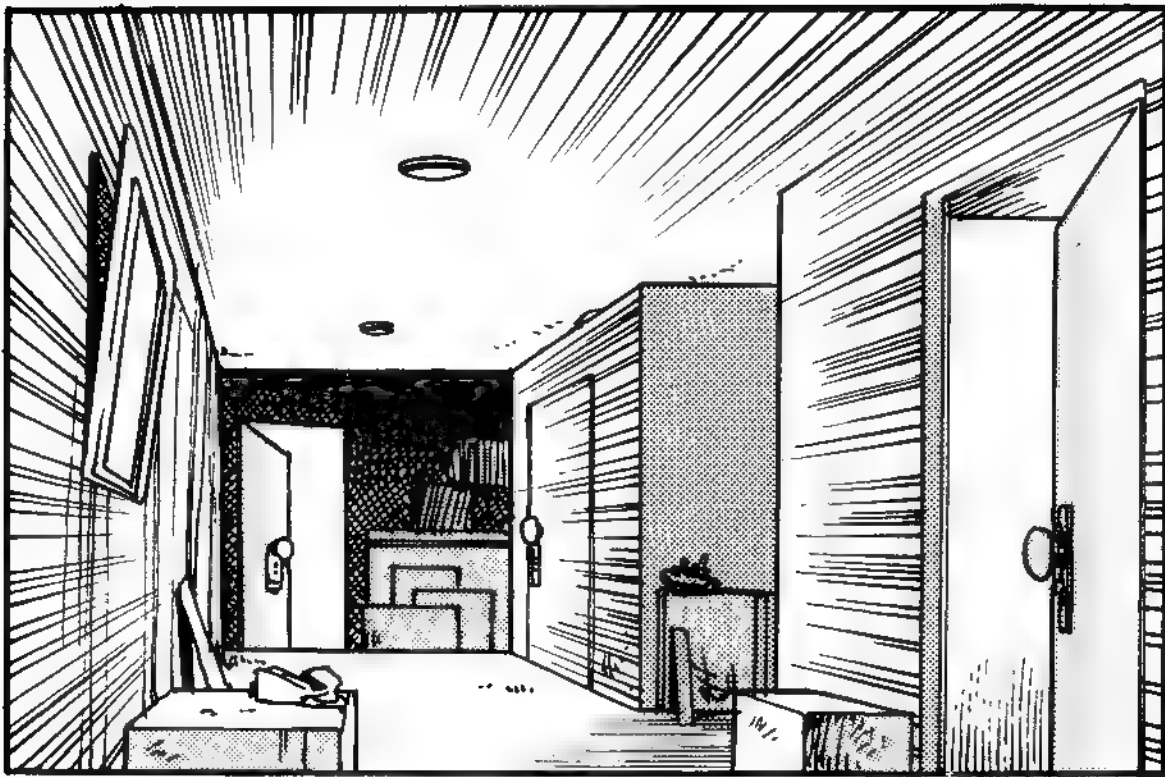


*FX BLA BLAM

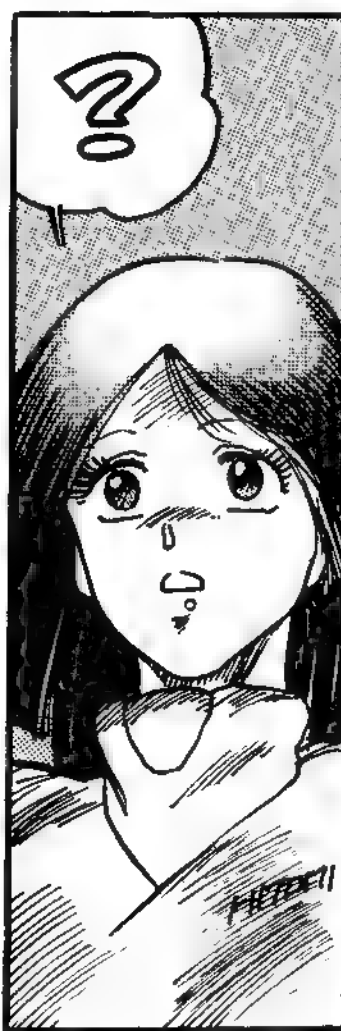
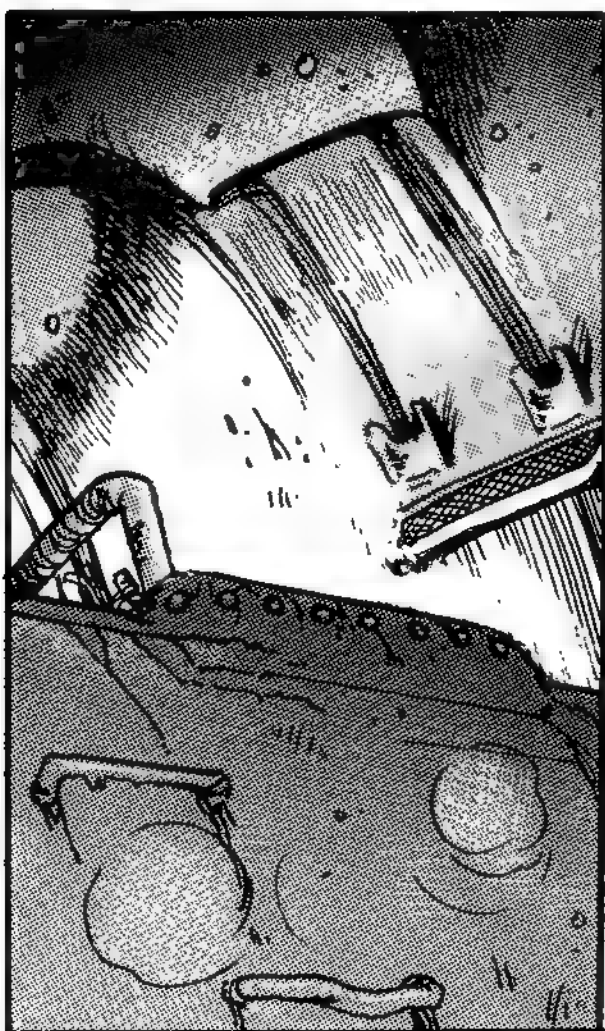
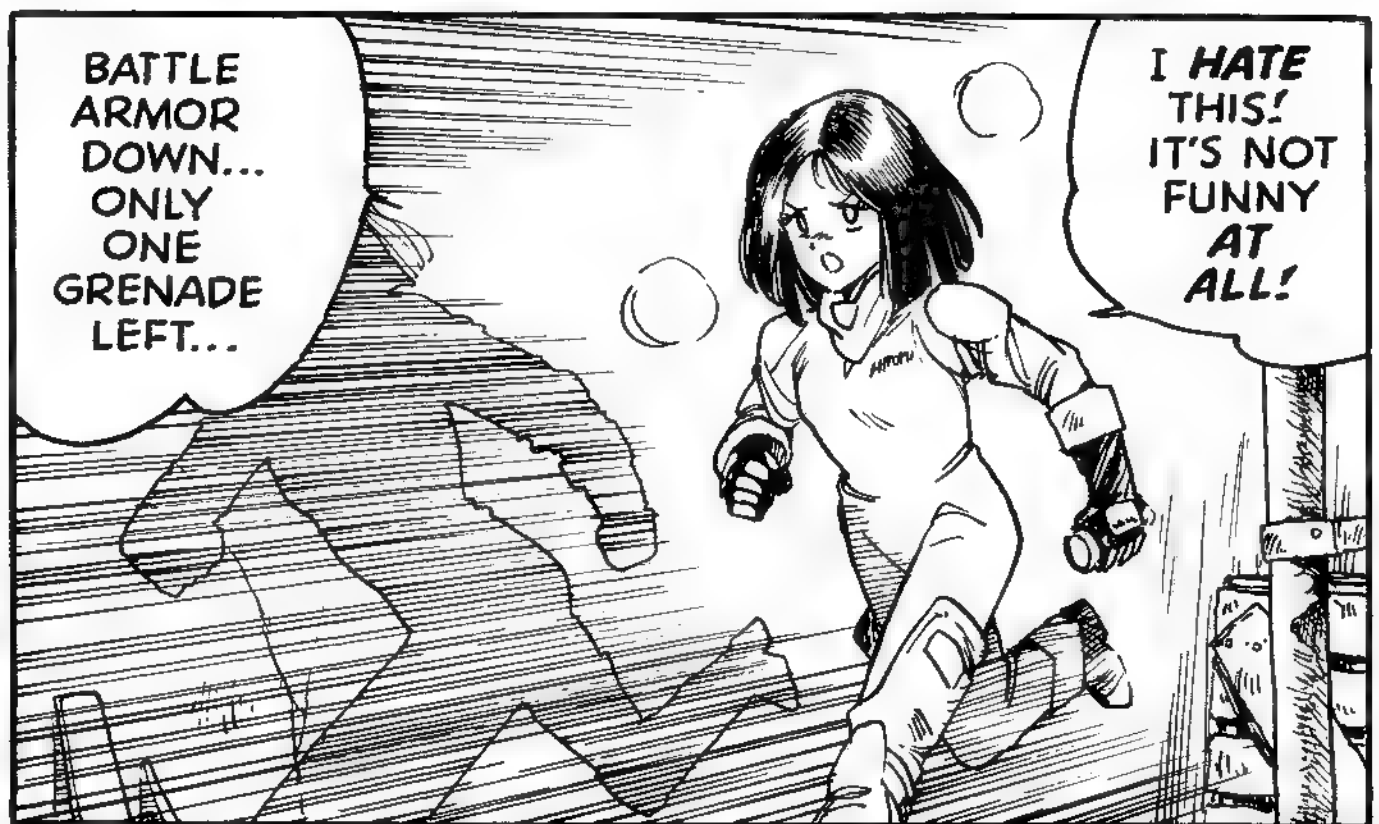


*FX VRRM VRRM

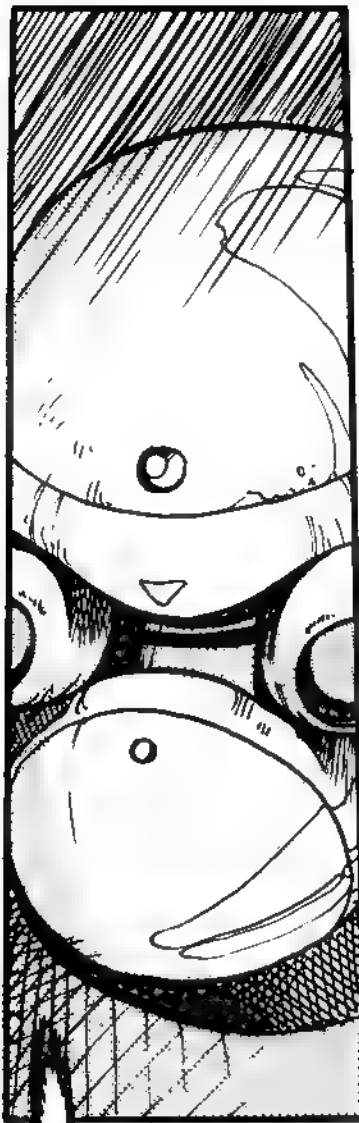




*FX WSHH

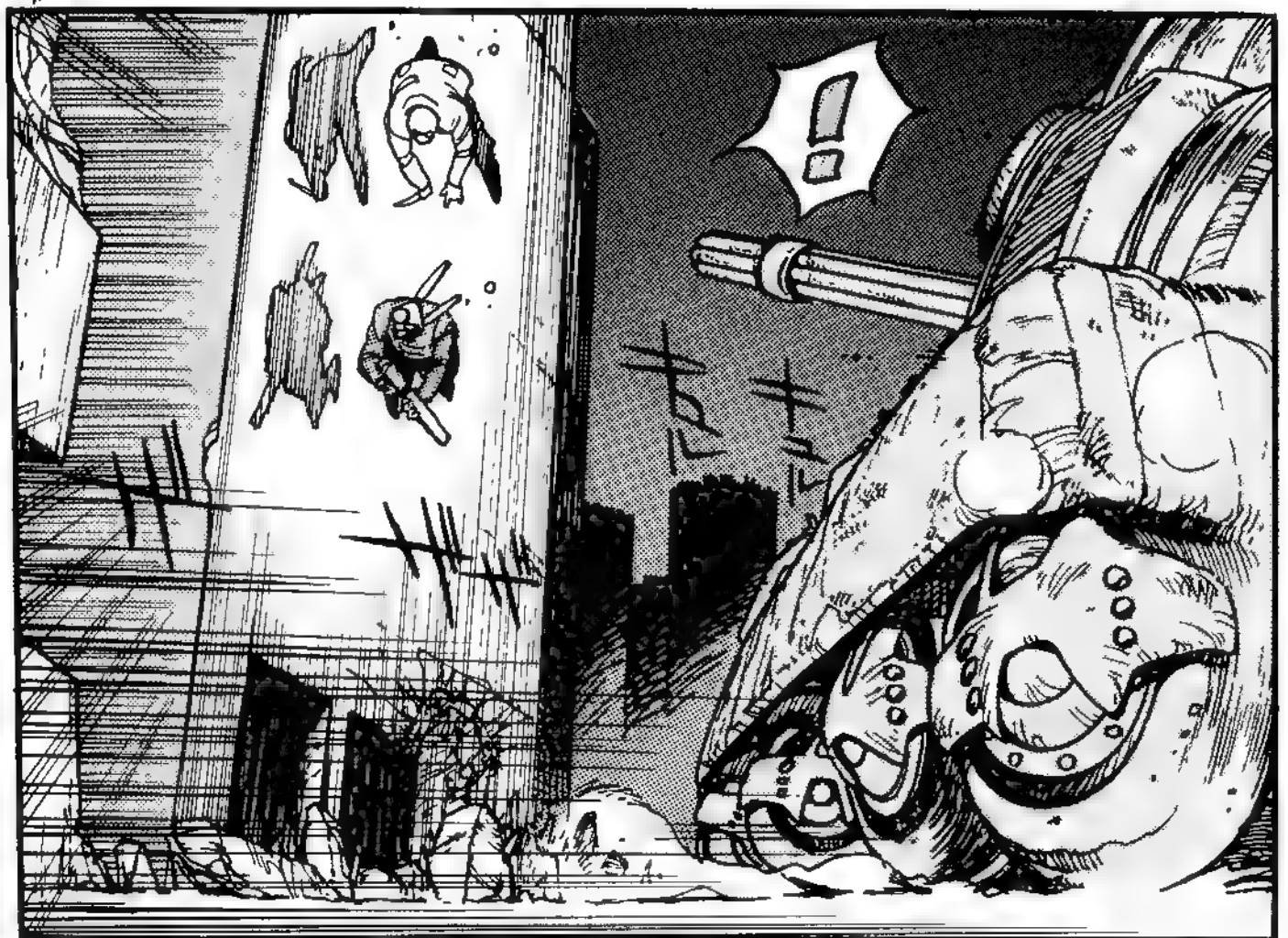
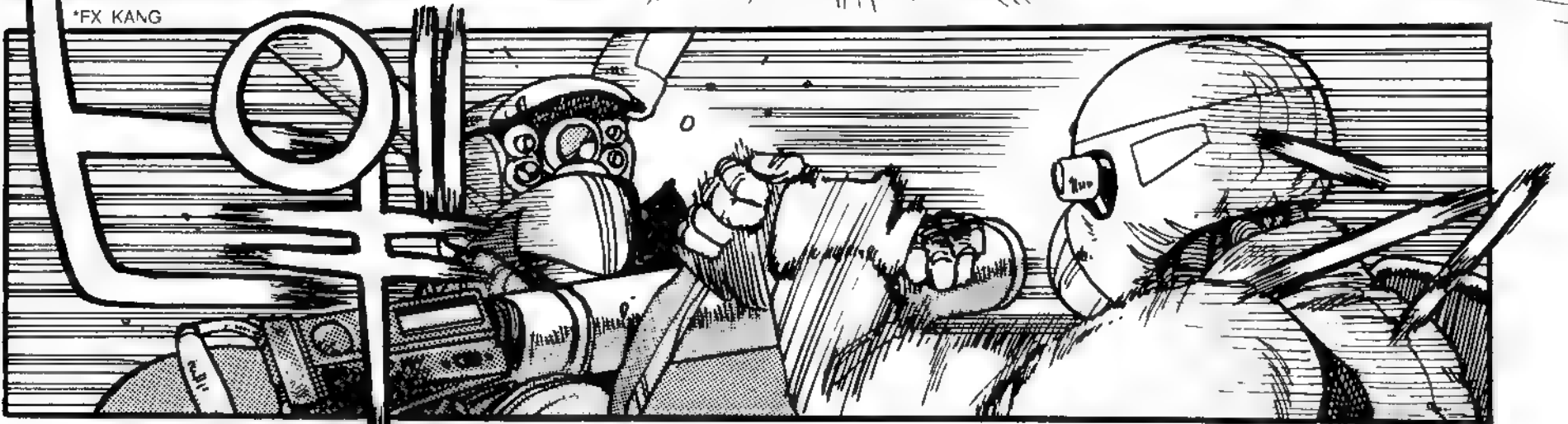


*FX GNGNGN



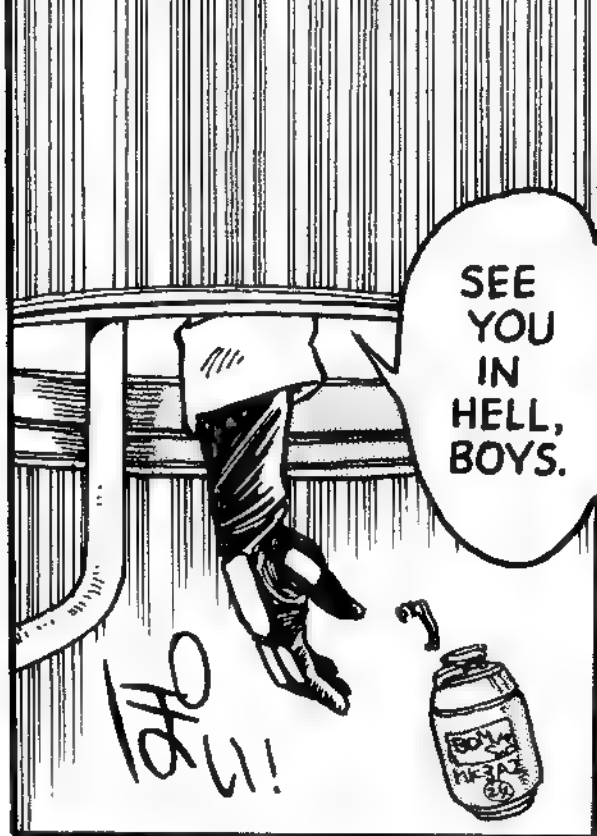
*FX CLIK CLIK

*FX KANG

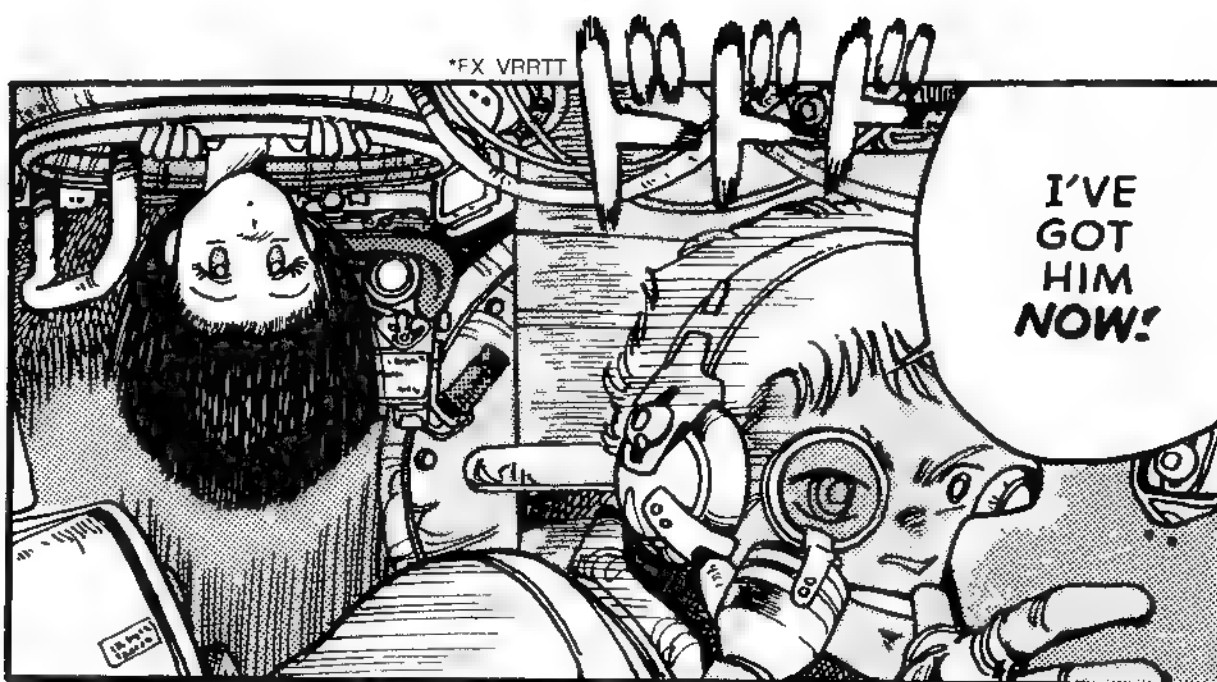


*FX WHSSST

*FX CHNK CHNK



*FX CLIK



*FX VRRTT

I'VE
GOT
HIM
NOW!



*FX KLT KLT

Huh?



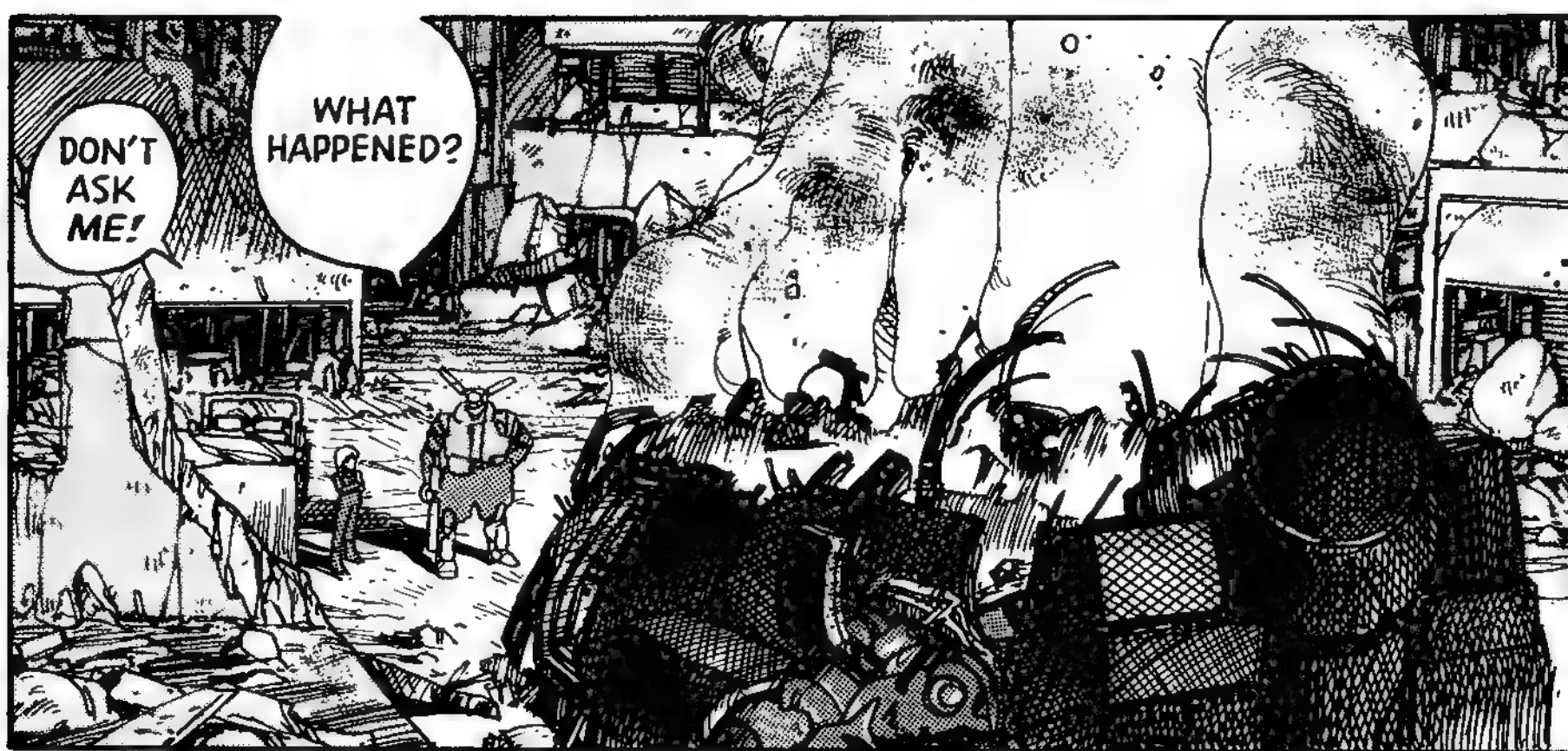
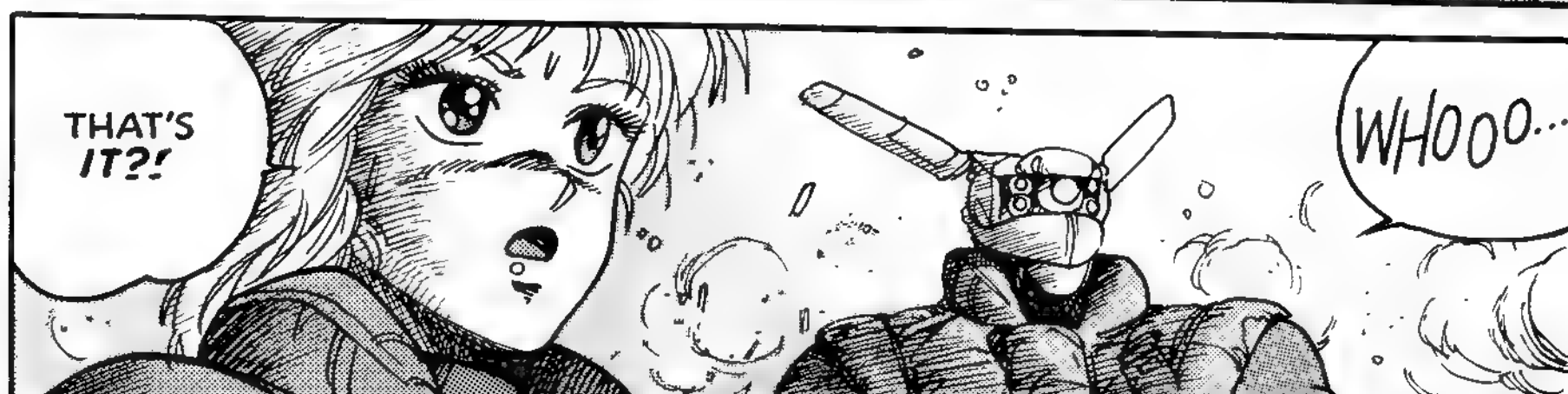
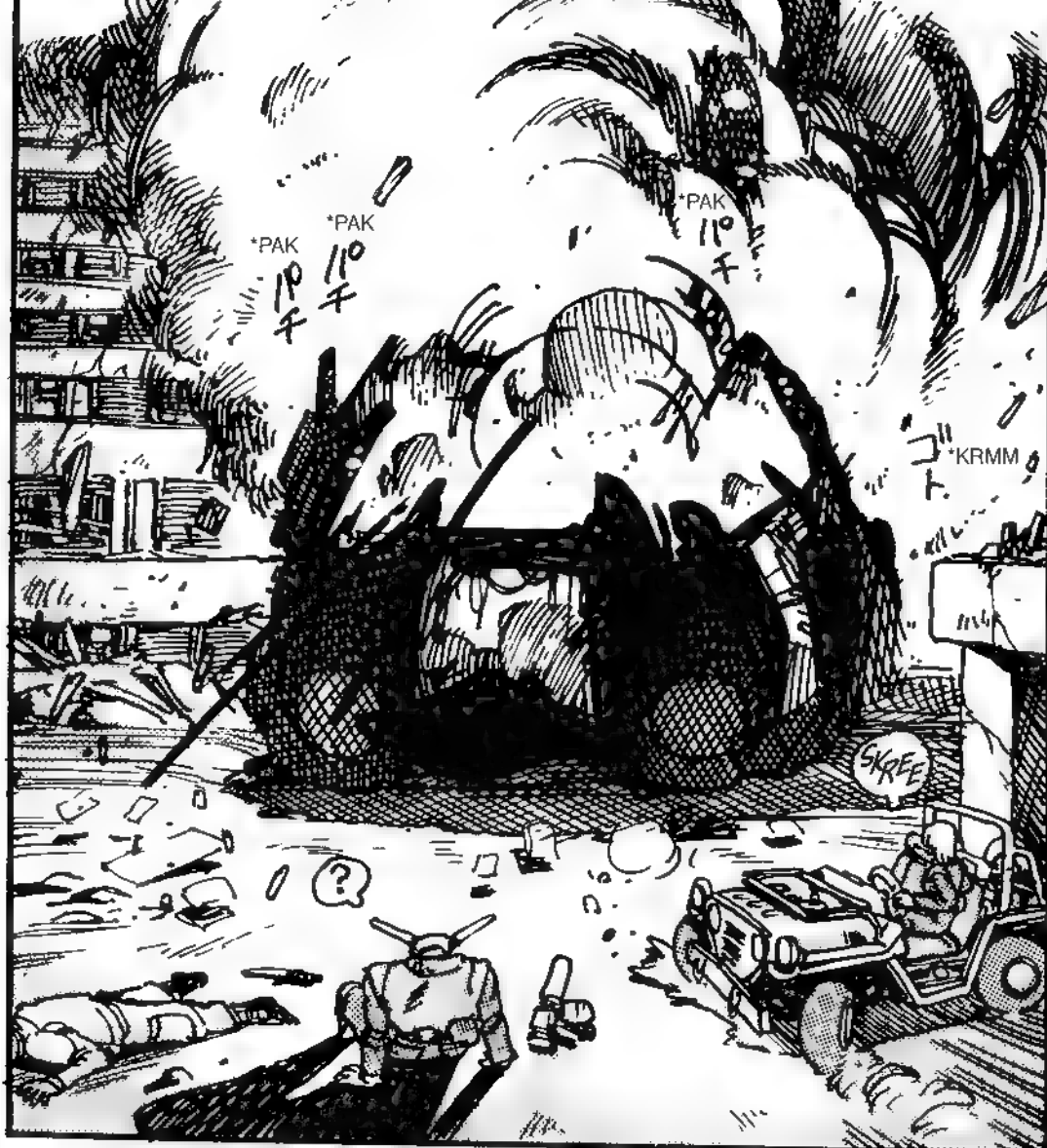
*FX VRRT

WHAT?

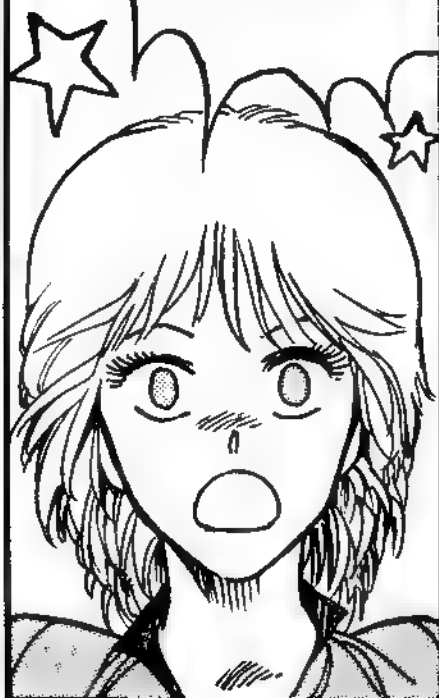
Huh?
WHADJA
SAY?



*FX WHBOOM



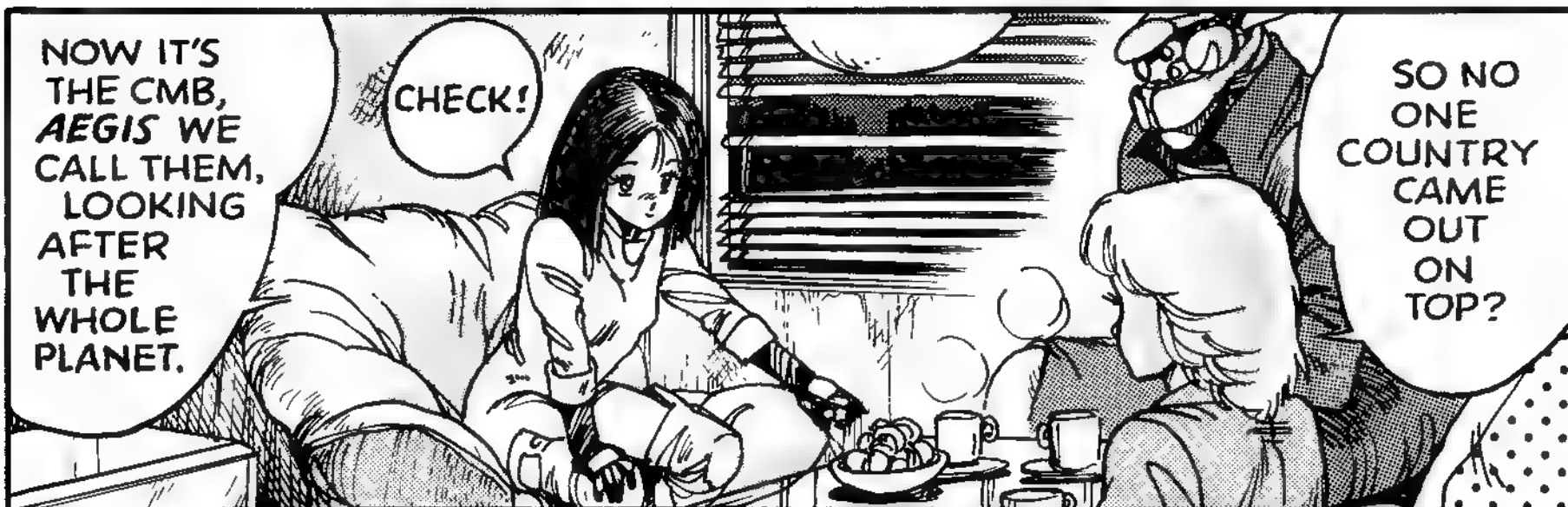
THE
EARTH'S
BEEN
UNIFIED
BY THIS
"CENTRAL
MANAGEMENT
BUREAU"?!?



NOW IT'S
THE CMB,
AEGIS WE
CALL THEM,
LOOKING
AFTER
THE
WHOLE
PLANET.

CHECK!

SO NO
ONE
COUNTRY
CAME
OUT
ON
TOP?



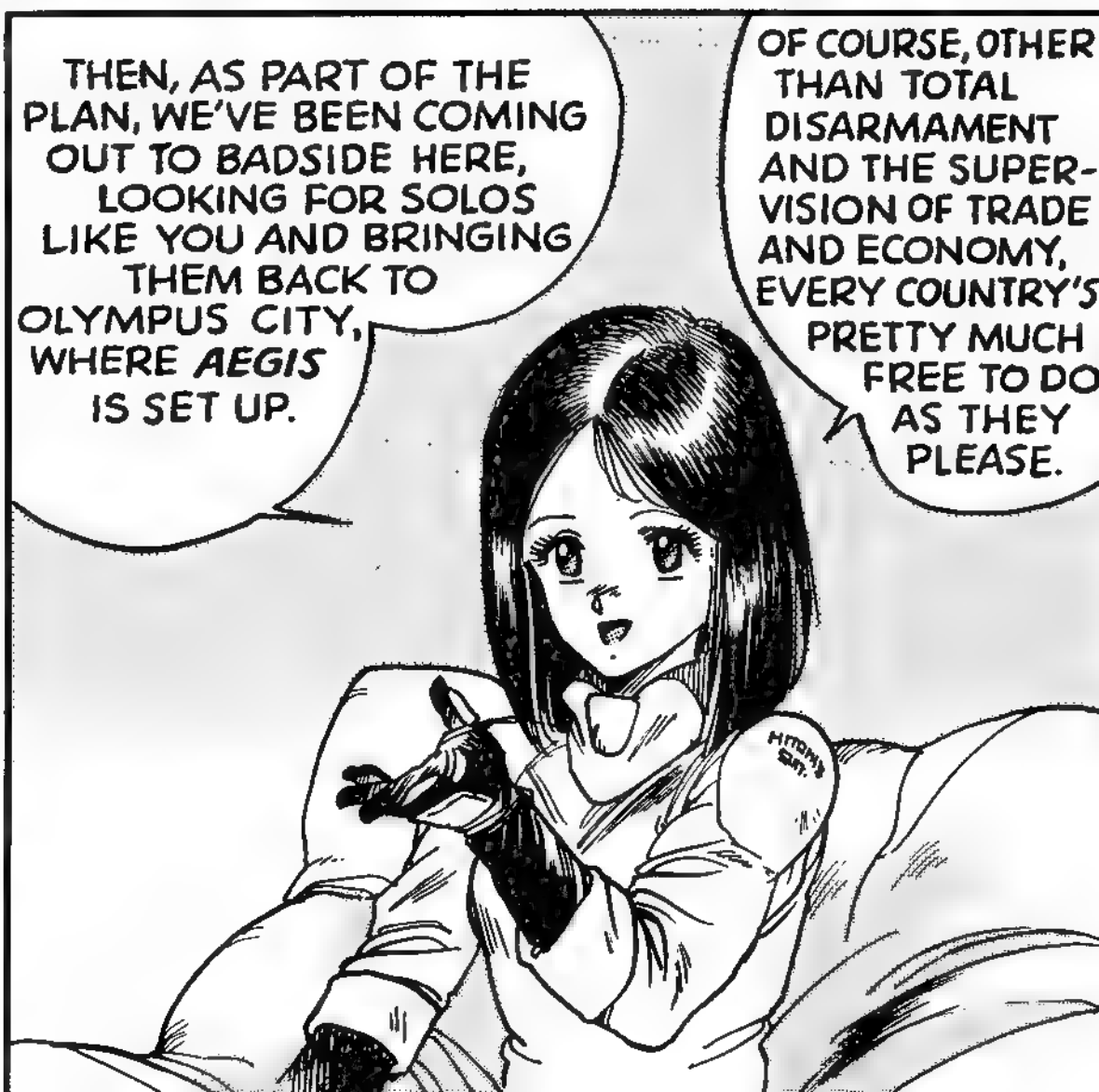
HOLD ON.
I THOUGHT
YOU SAID
"TOTAL
DISARMAMENT."
THAT WAS A
PRETTY
TOUGH
BUNCH OUT
THERE...

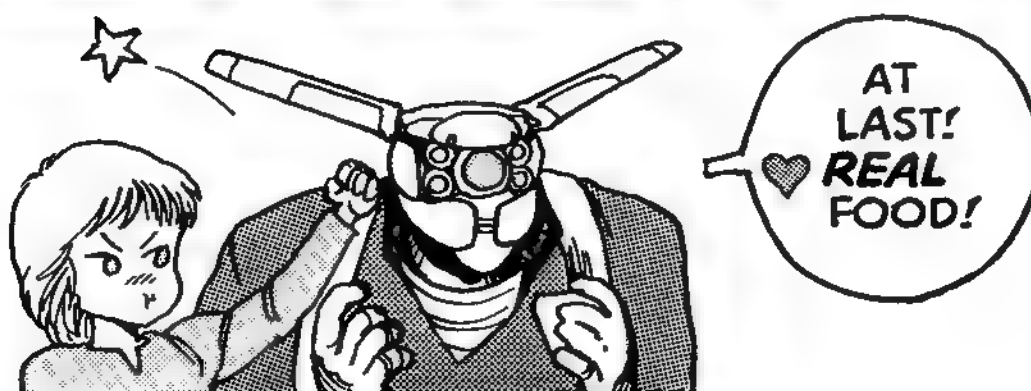
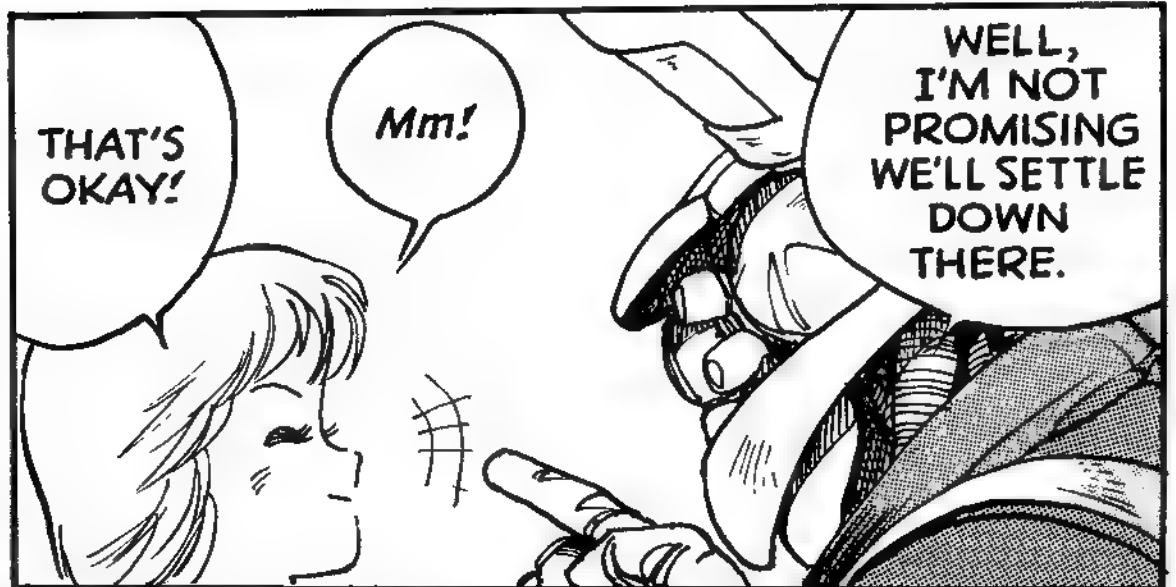
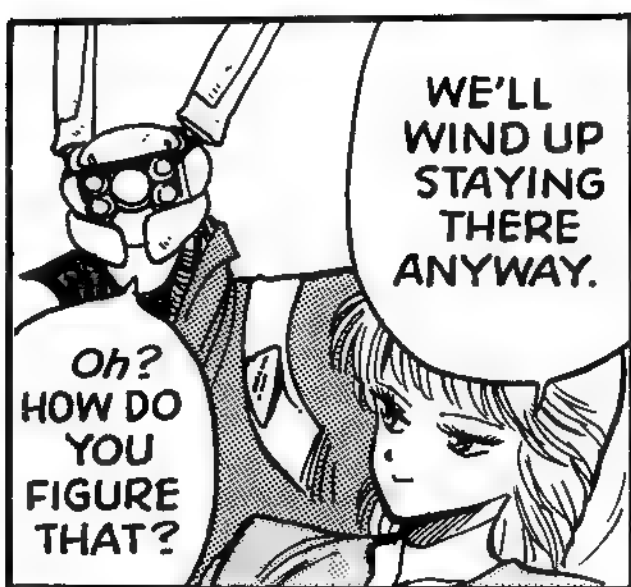
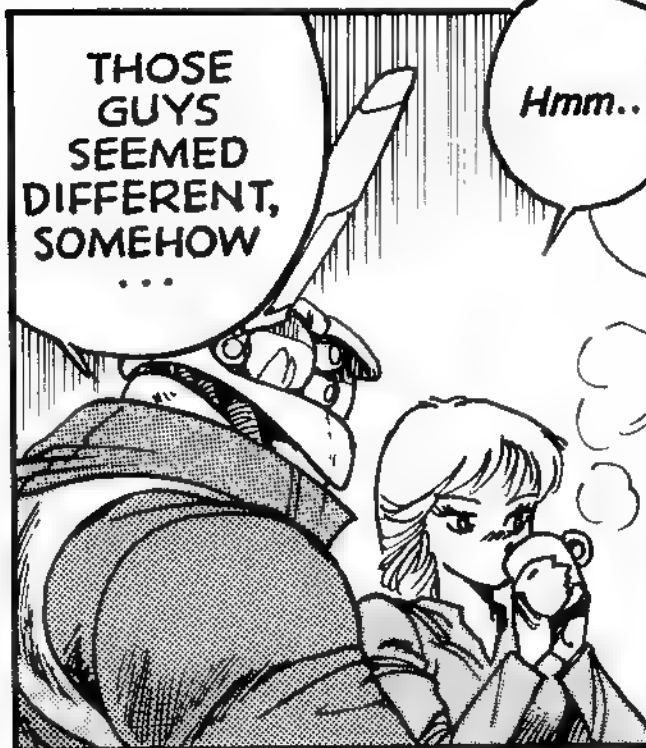
WE...
WE
HAD
NO
IDEA!



THEN, AS PART OF THE
PLAN, WE'VE BEEN COMING
OUT TO BADSIDE HERE,
LOOKING FOR SOLOS
LIKE YOU AND BRINGING
THEM BACK TO
OLYMPUS CITY,
WHERE **AEGIS**
IS SET UP.

OF COURSE, OTHER
THAN TOTAL
DISARMAMENT
AND THE SUPER-
VISION OF TRADE
AND ECONOMY,
EVERY COUNTRY'S
PRETTY MUCH
FREE TO DO
AS THEY
PLEASE.







OKAY?
LISTEN
UP!

*FX: SHFF



*FX: FAPFAP



LOOK
EVERYWHERE
AT ONCE!
MARK ANYTHING
THAT MOVES
PULL THE TRIGGER
BEFORE YOU
SEE THE
TARGET!

ANYTIME
YOU LOOK
RIGHT, LOOK
LEFT!
ANYTIME
YOU LOOK
UP, LOOK
DOWN!



KEEP
YOUR
FEELINGS
OUT
OF THIS,
BRIAREOS
!



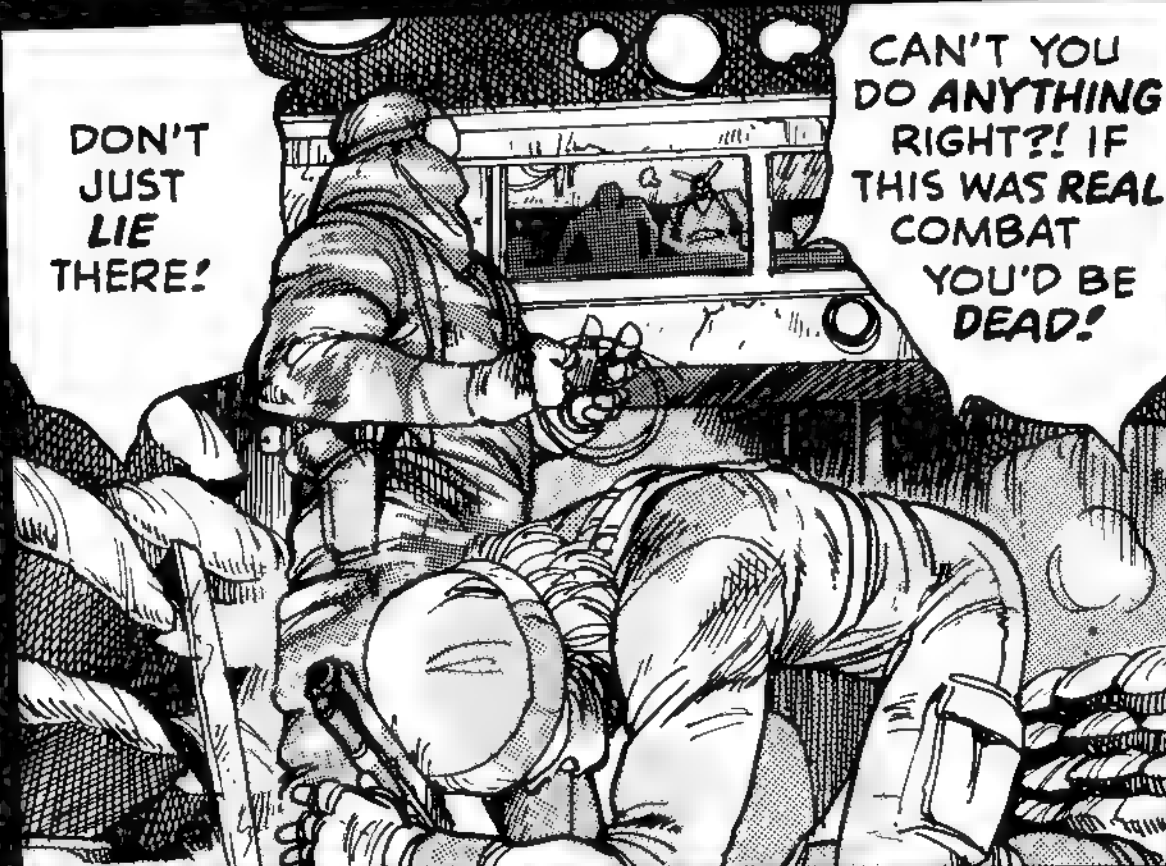
CARL! LET HER
REST, DAMN IT!
YOU DON'T
NEED TO MAKE
YOUR OWN
DAUGHTER...

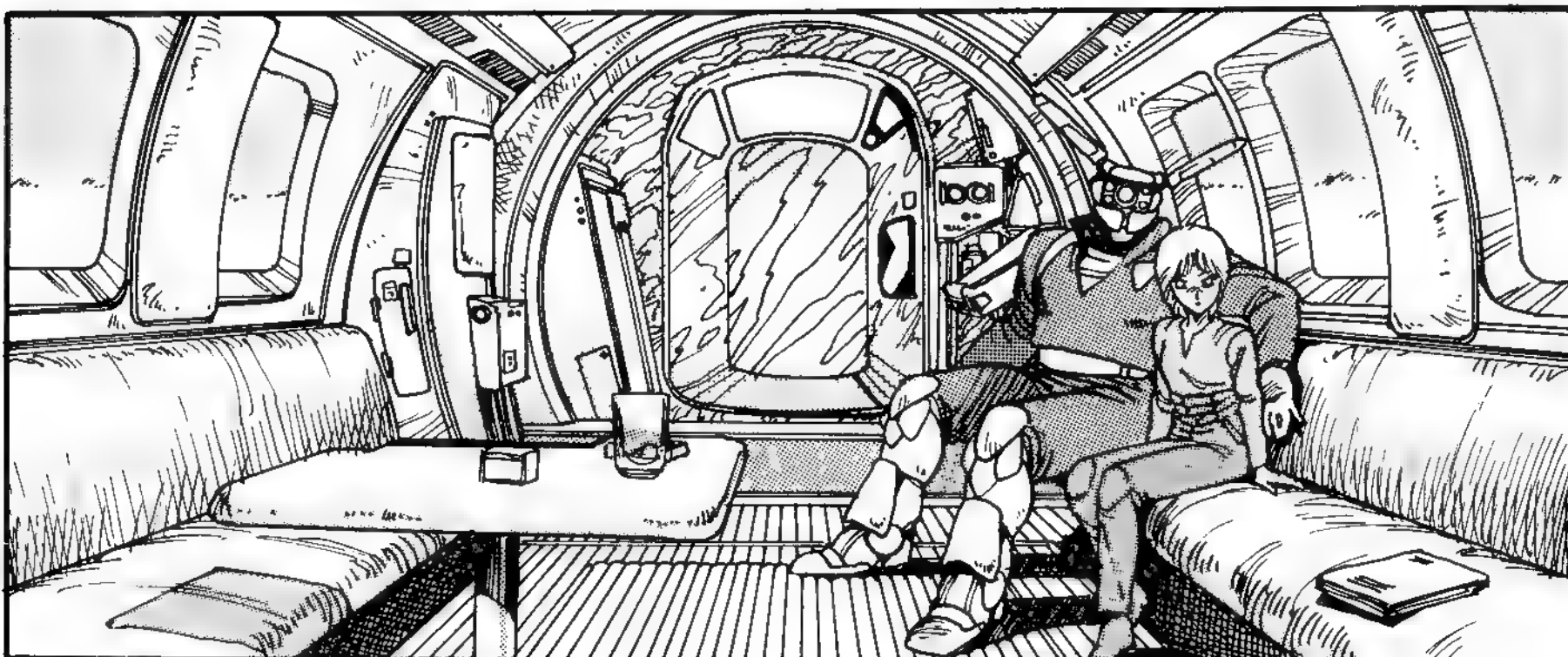
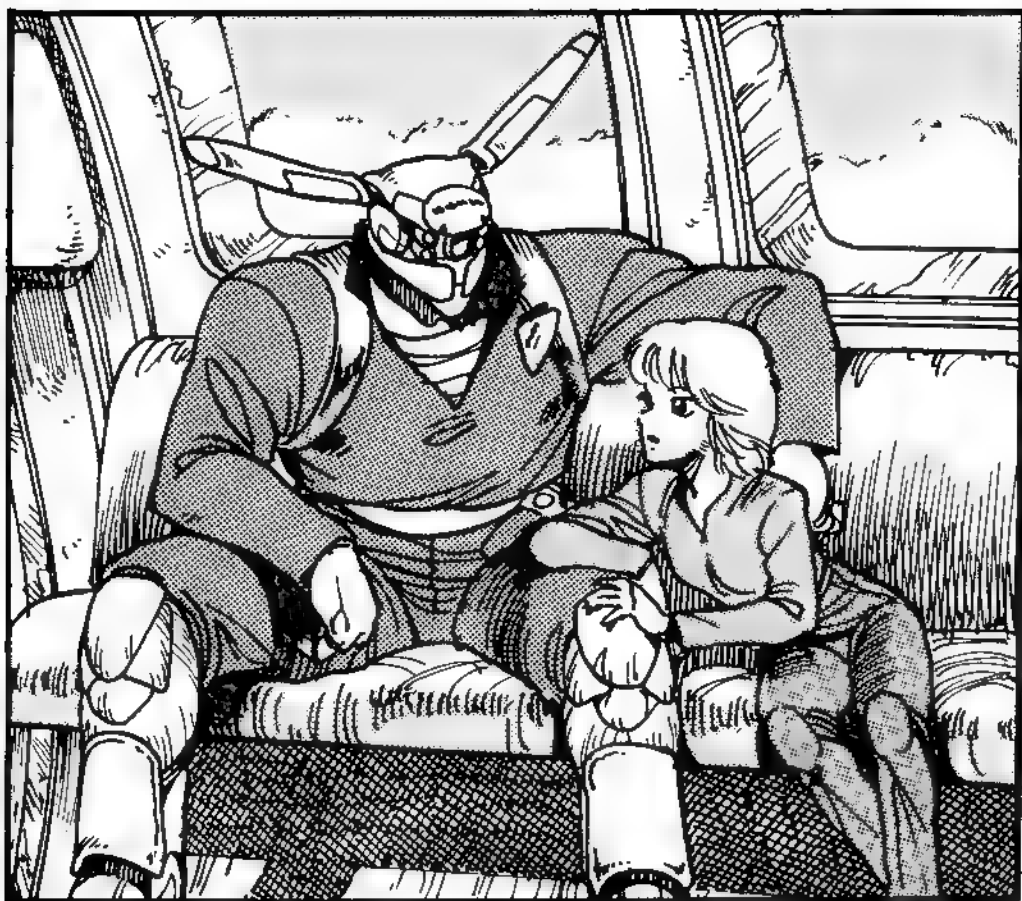


I TOLD
YOU TO
KEEP YOUR
EYES
MOVING!
THOSE AREN'T
REAL BULLETS...
CHECK
LATER!

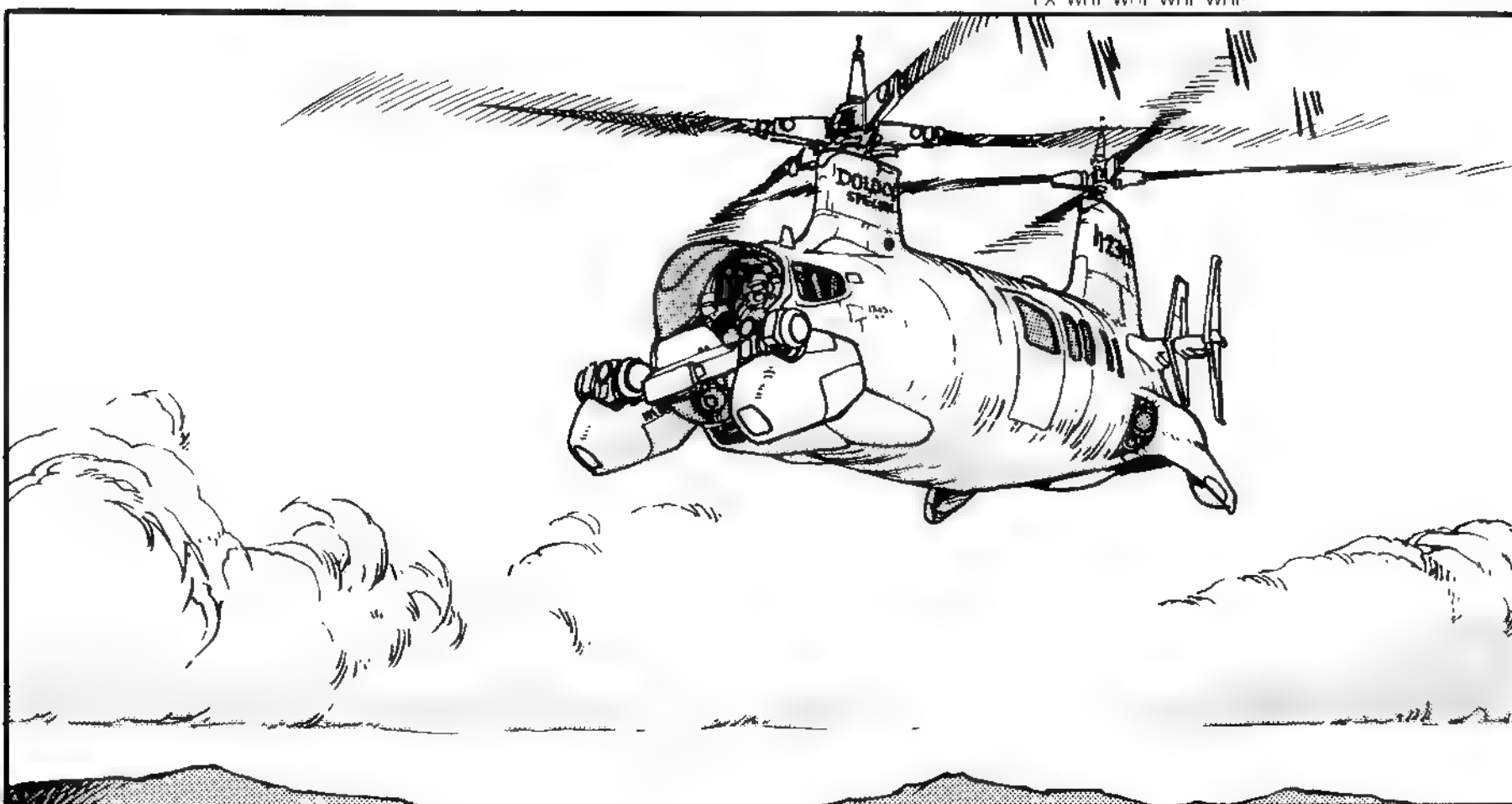


FX: ZZZK

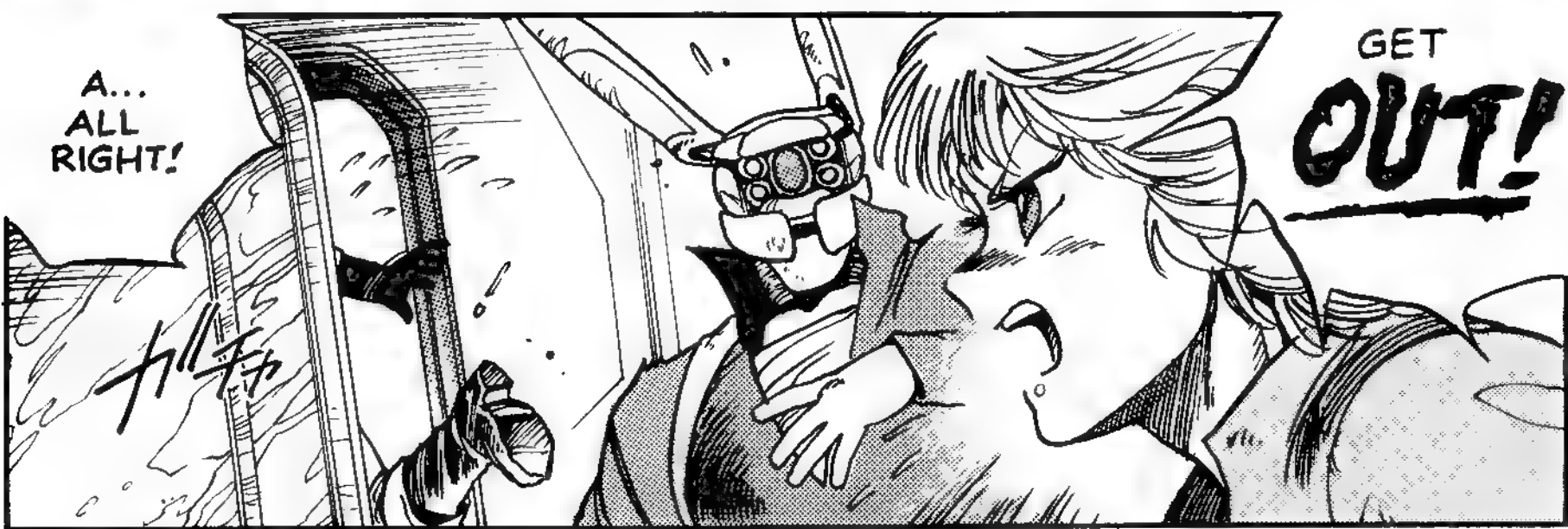
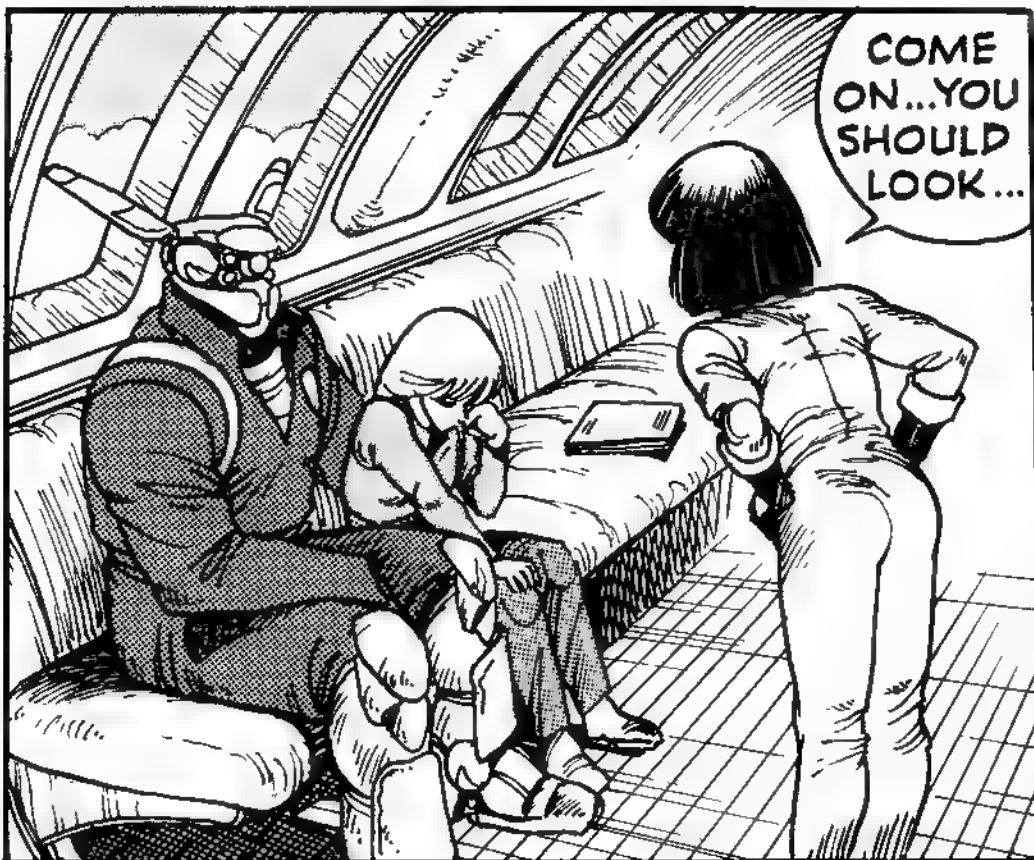




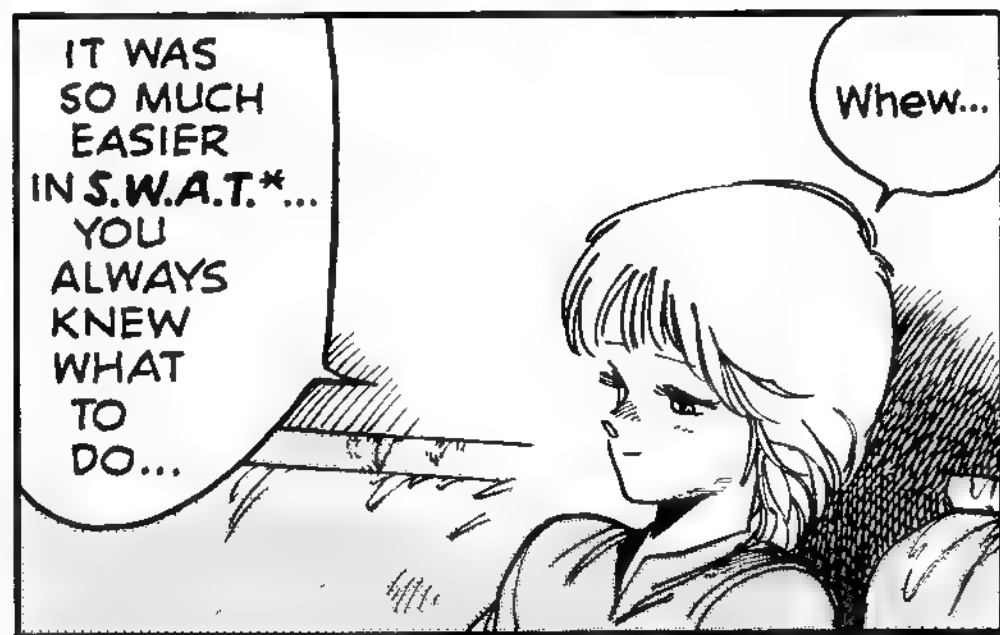
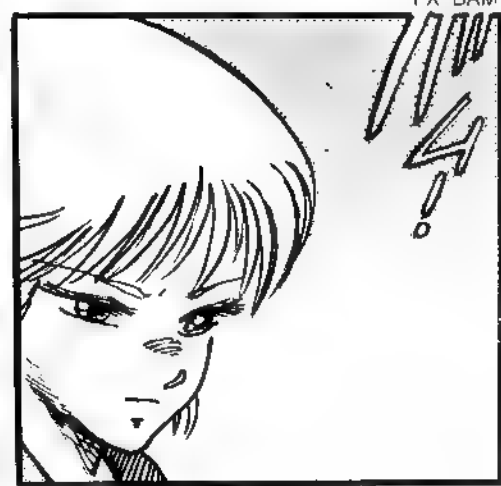
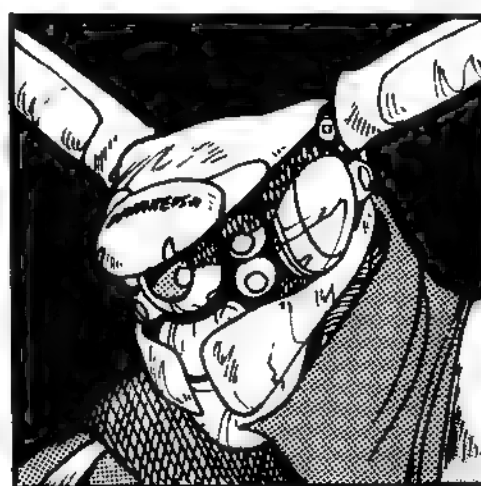
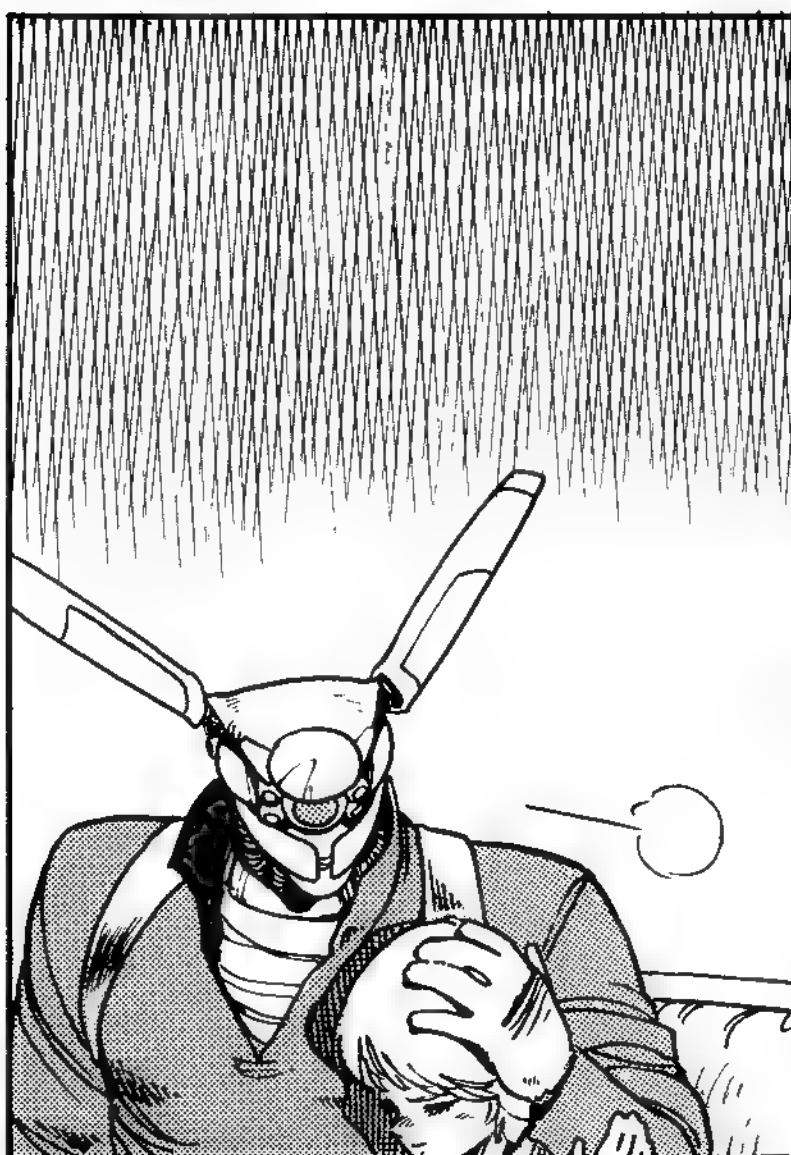
*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP



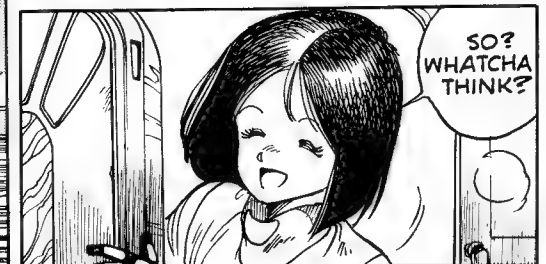
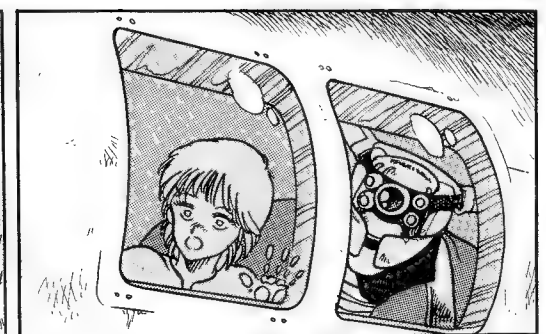
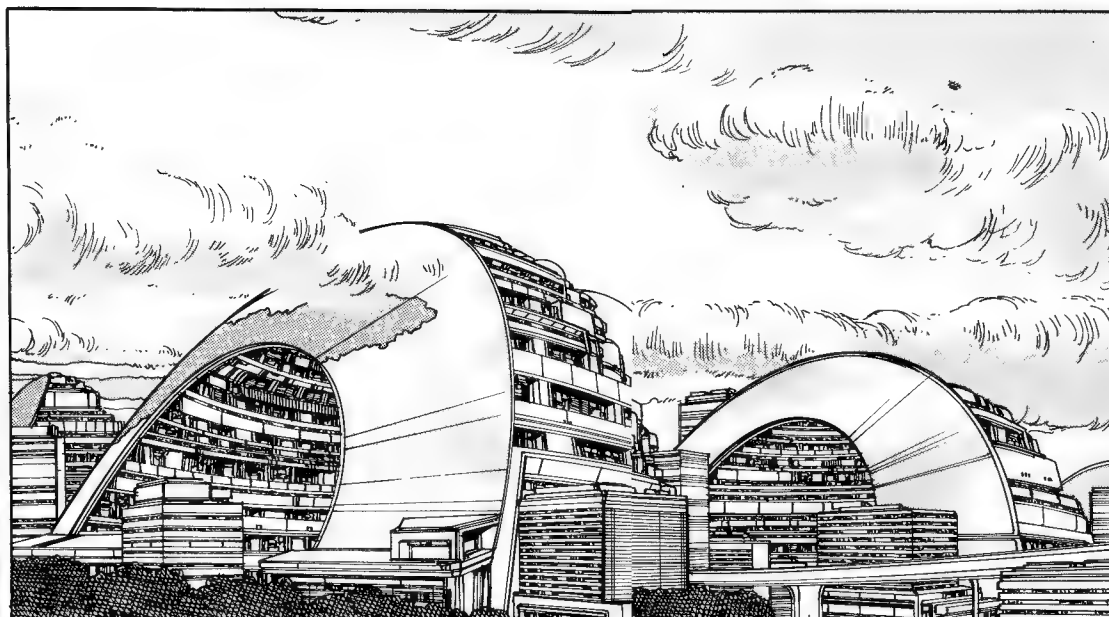
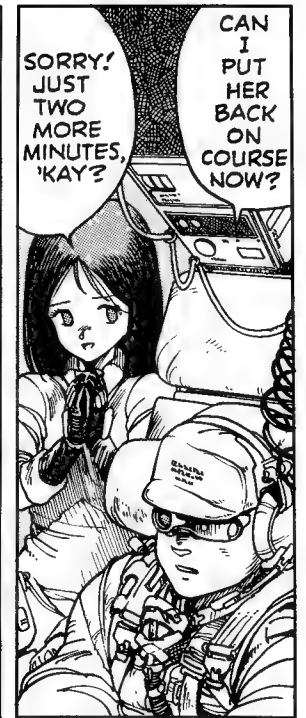
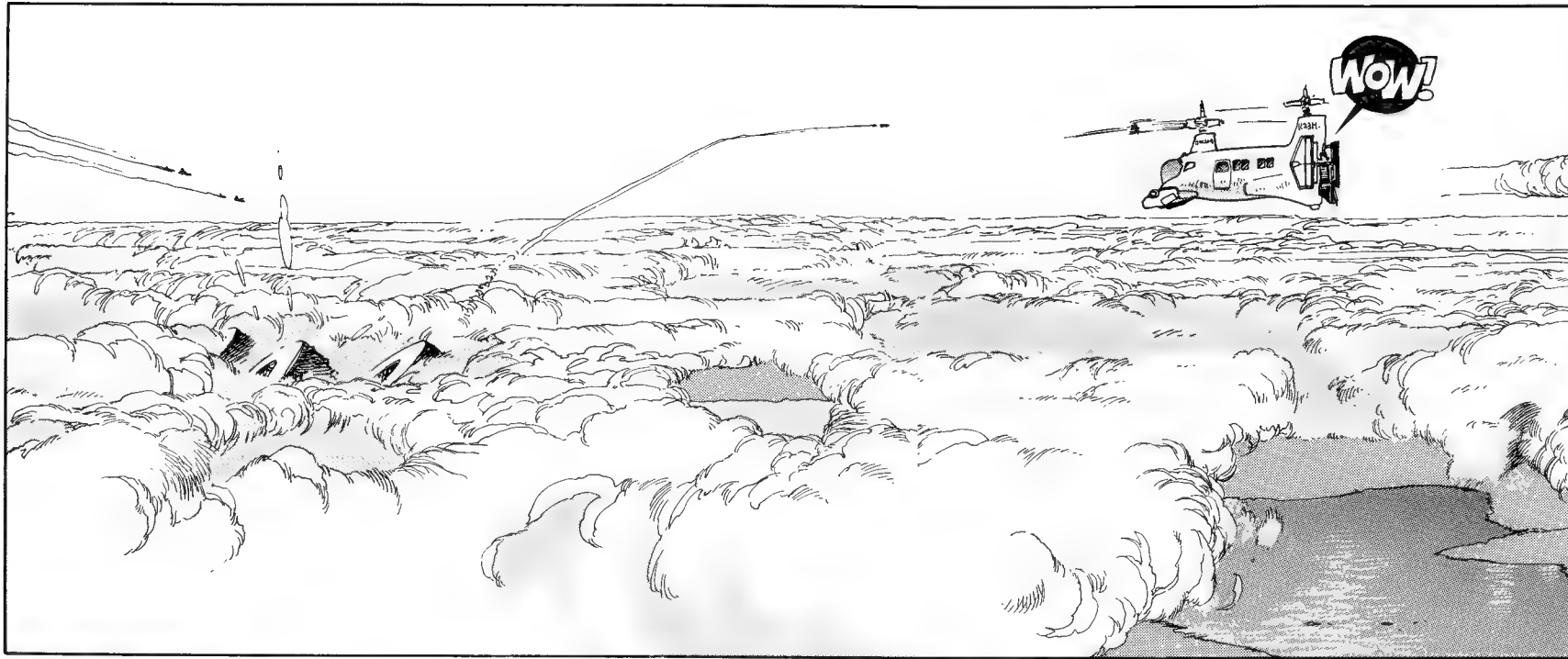
*Olympus: here, the name of the city where the Comprehensive Administration Bureau is
Also the name of a mountain located in northern Greece, the country's highest peak at 2885m, on whose summit the gods lived in Greek mythology.



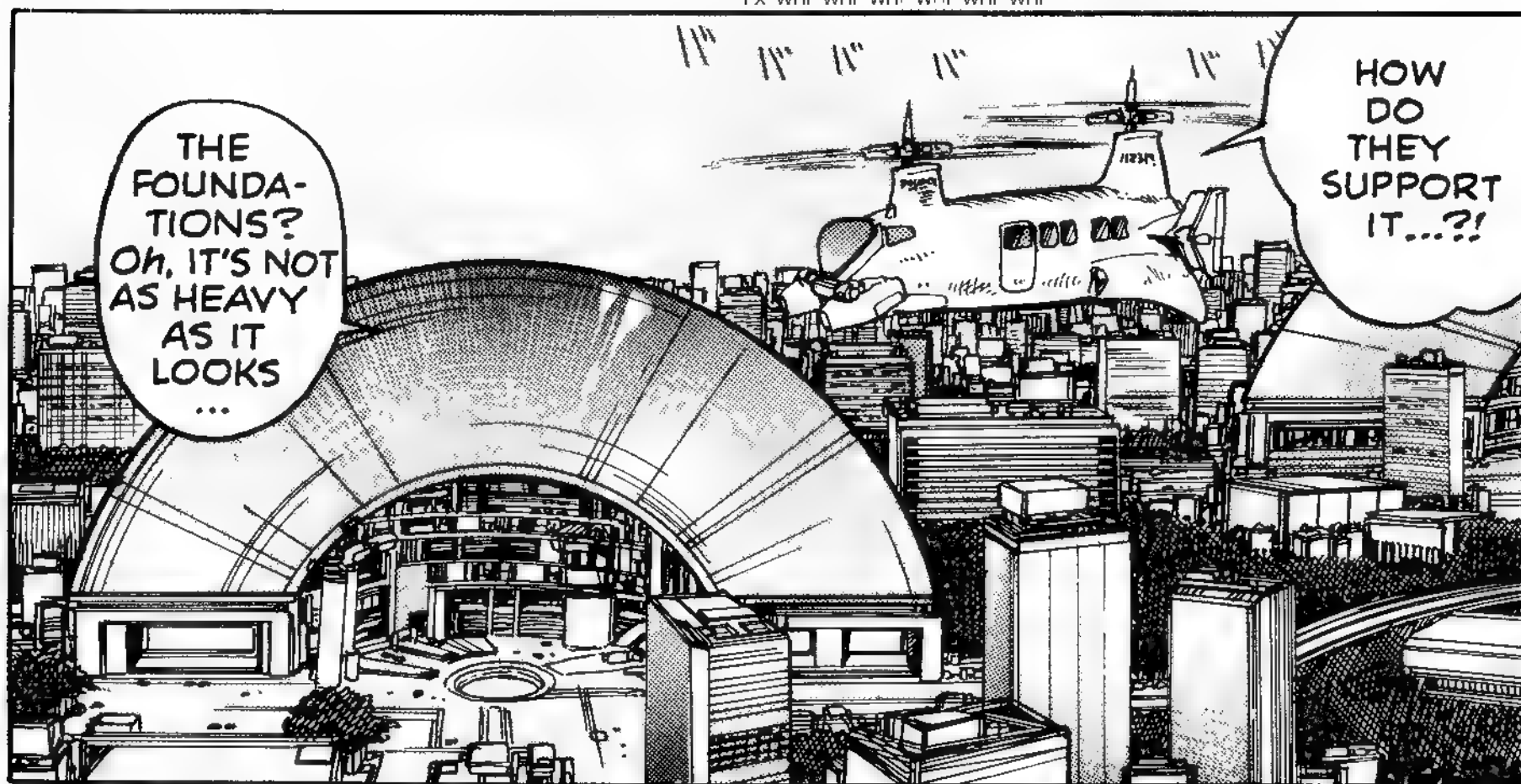
*FX KCHAK



*S.W.A.T.: Special Weapons and Tactics. A specialized police unit that carries out dangerous operations.



*800 meters=2626 feet.



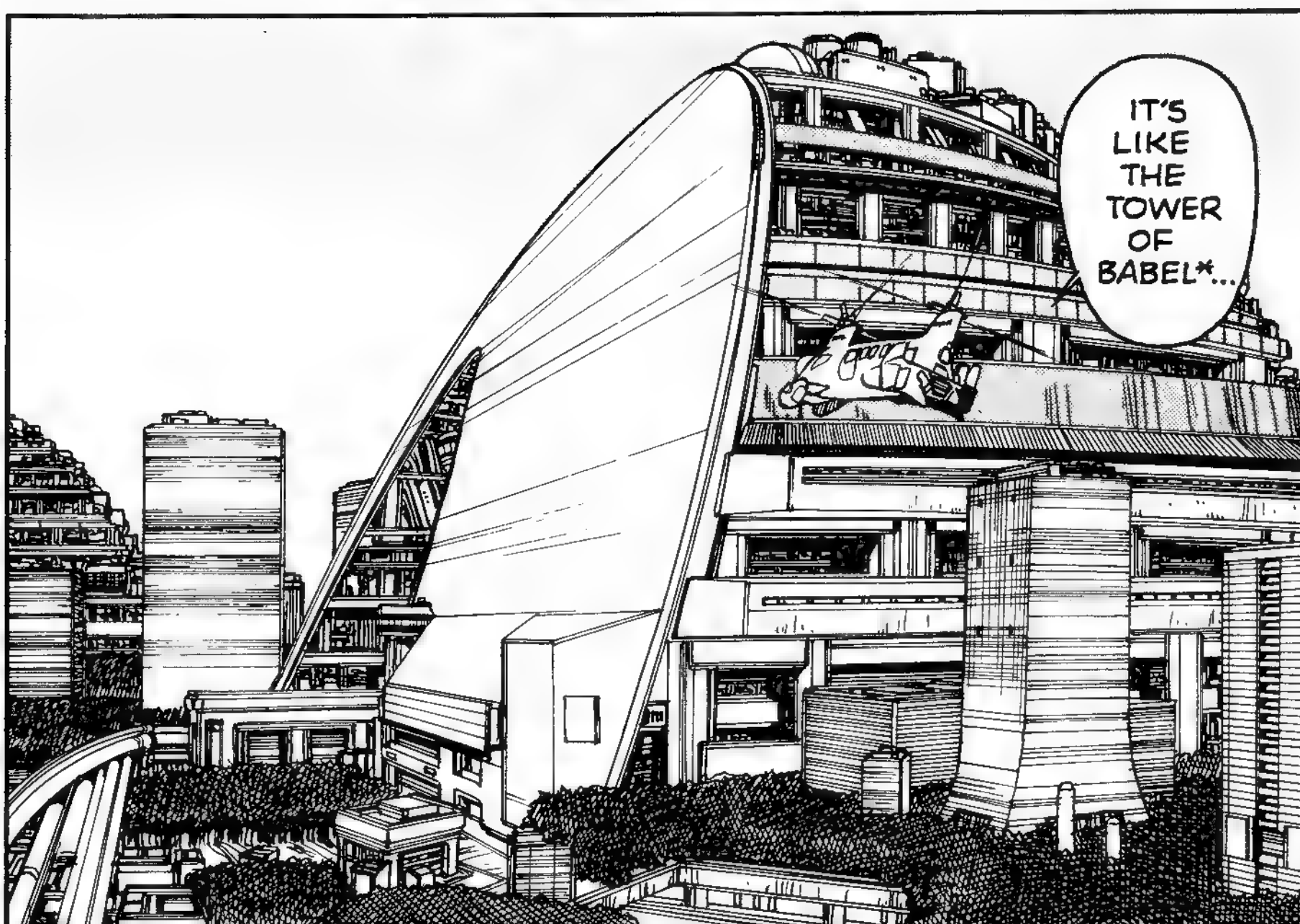
THE FOUNDATIONS?
Oh, IT'S NOT AS HEAVY AS IT LOOKS ...

HOW DO THEY SUPPORT IT...?!

THE FACTORIES ARE UNDERGROUND, HALF THE POWERGRIDS IN ORBIT... SO FEW CARS YOU CAN COUNT THEM.

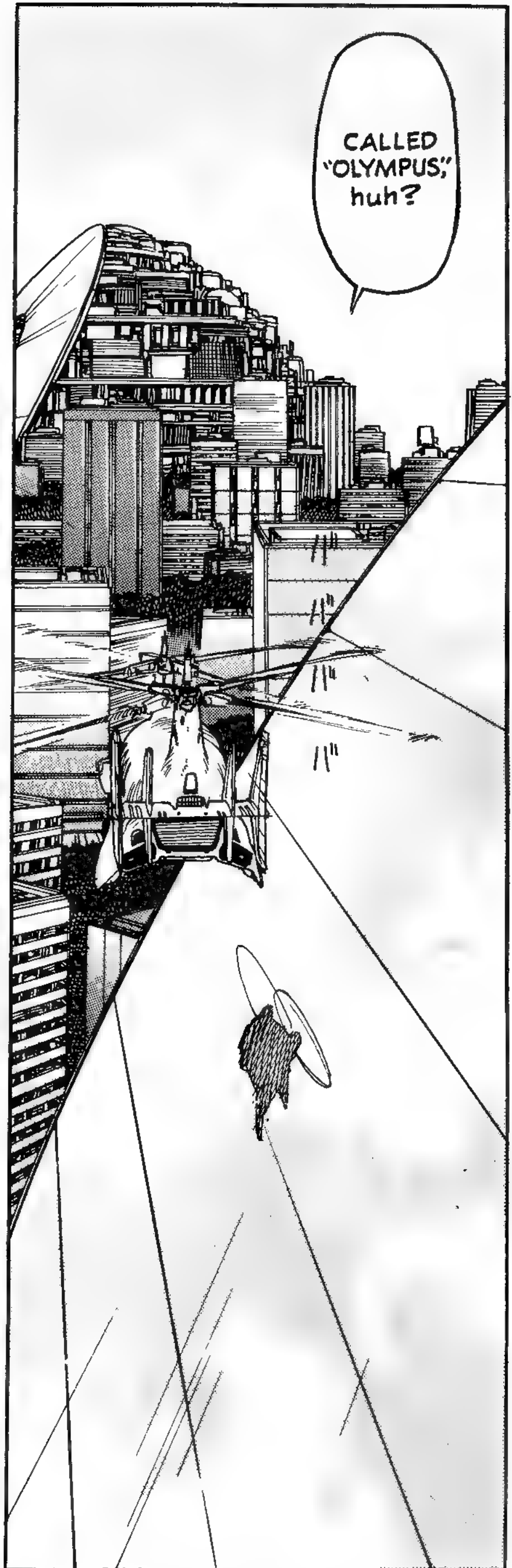
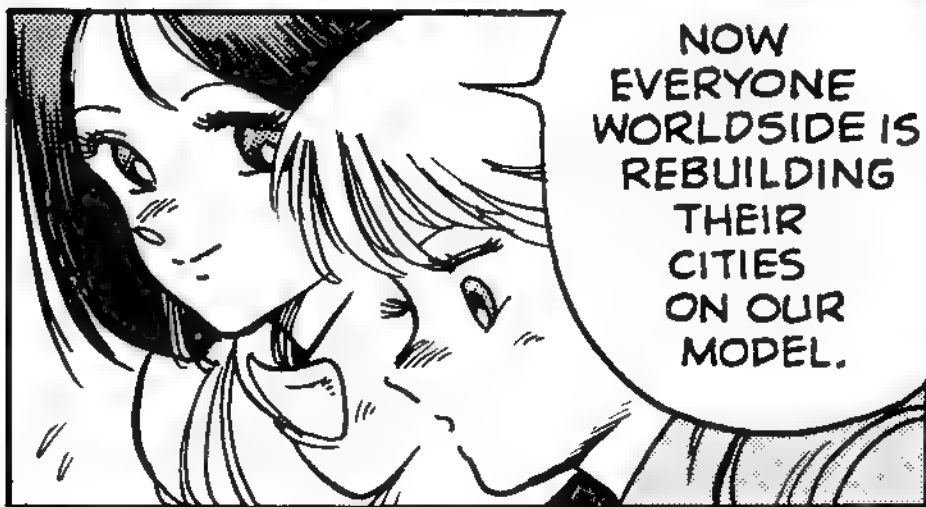


...NOT AS DENSE AS A NORMAL BUILDING.



IT'S LIKE THE TOWER OF BABEL*...

*Tower of Babel: a large, seven-story monument called Etemenanki in ancient Babylon, enshrining the god Marduk, boasting of a height of about 90m. It's also famous in an Old Testament story of a huge tower that reaches the heavens.

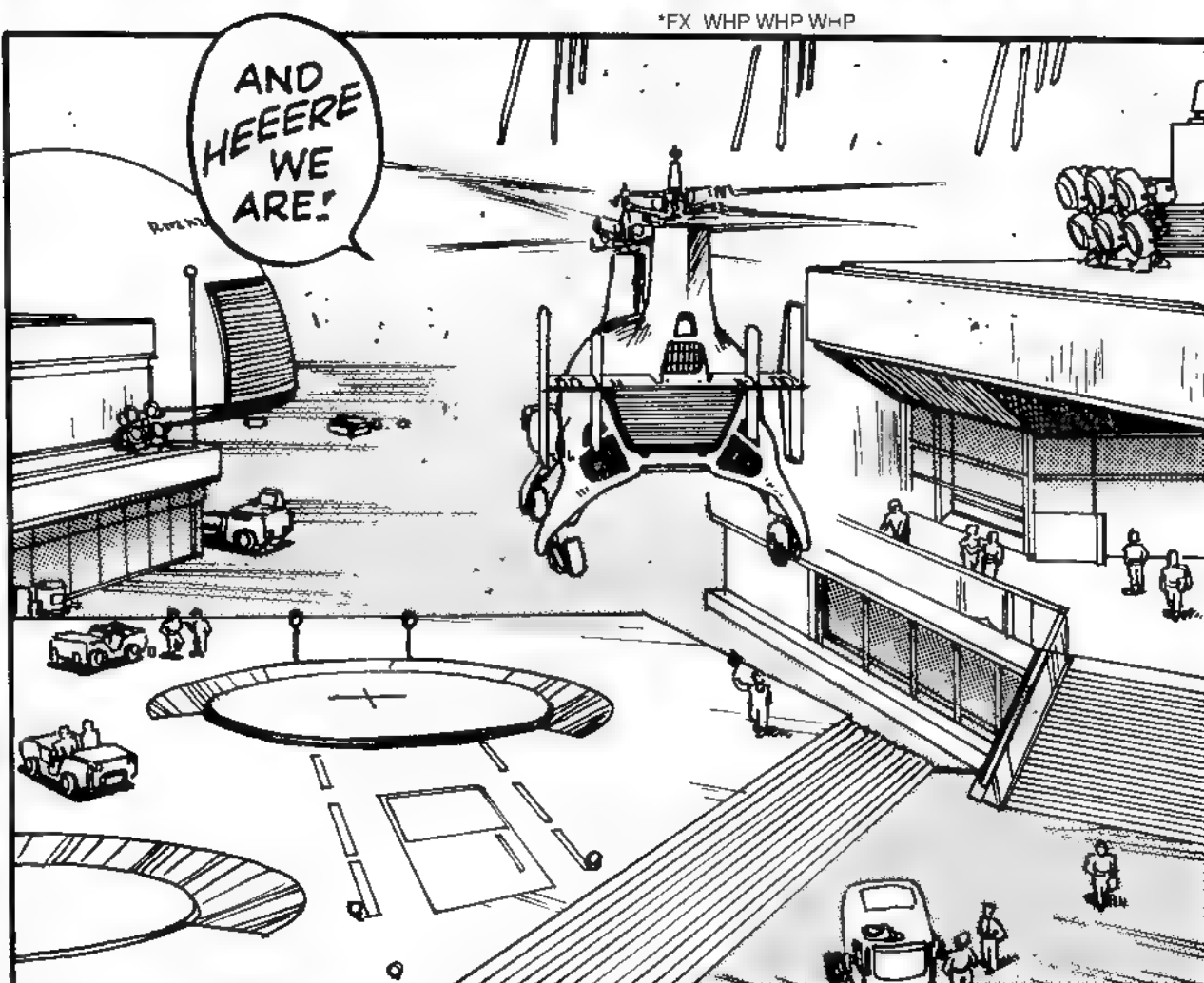




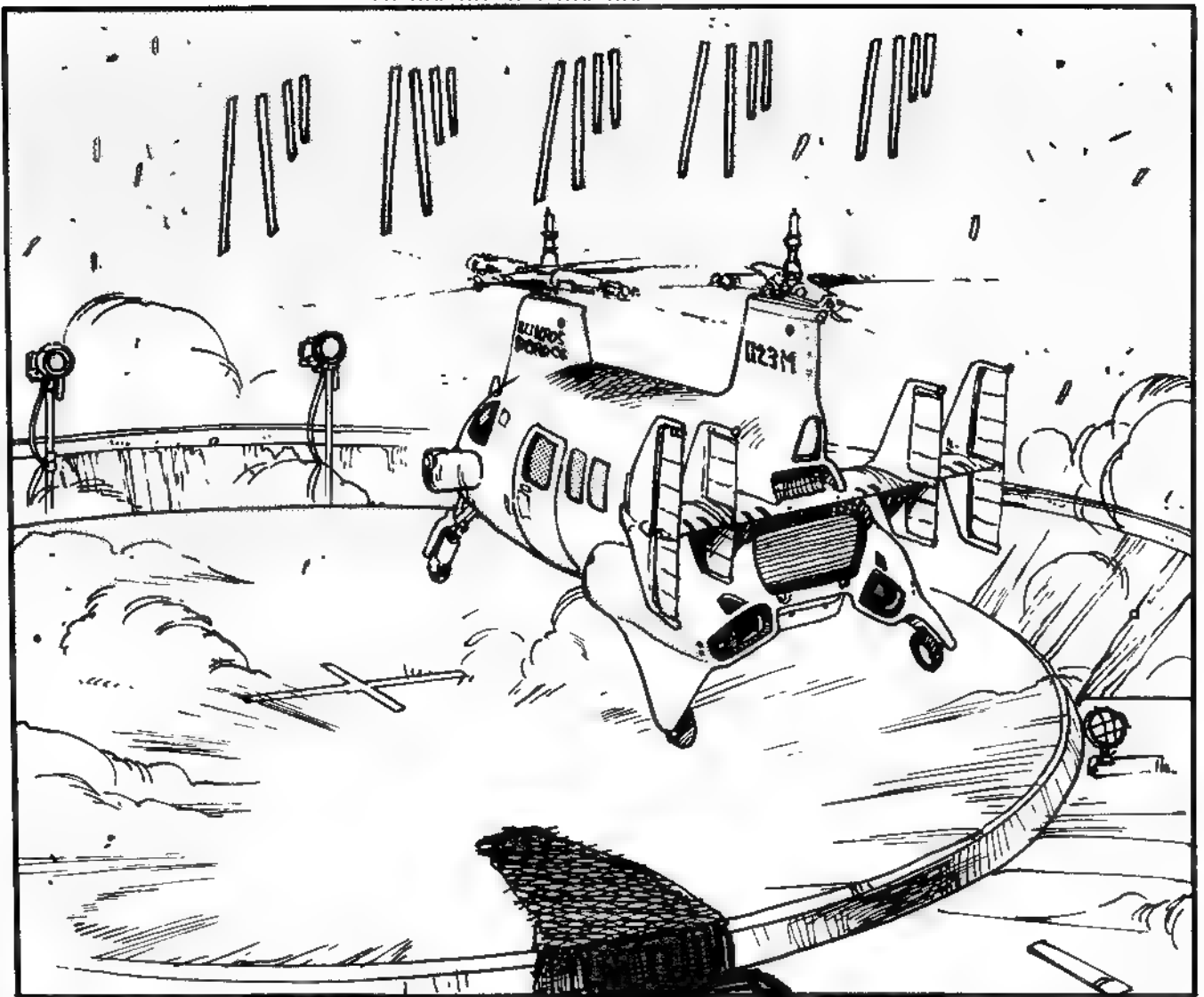
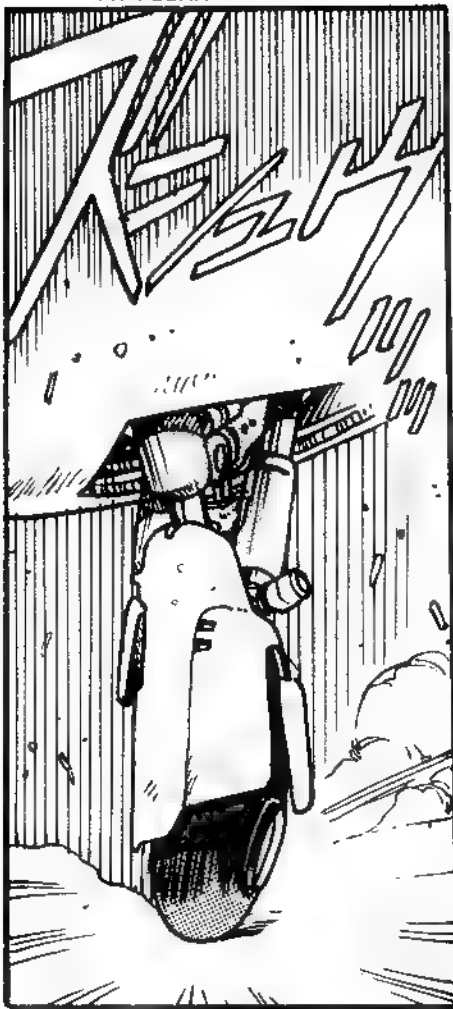
*FX WHP WHP WHP WHP WHP



*FX WHP WHP WHP



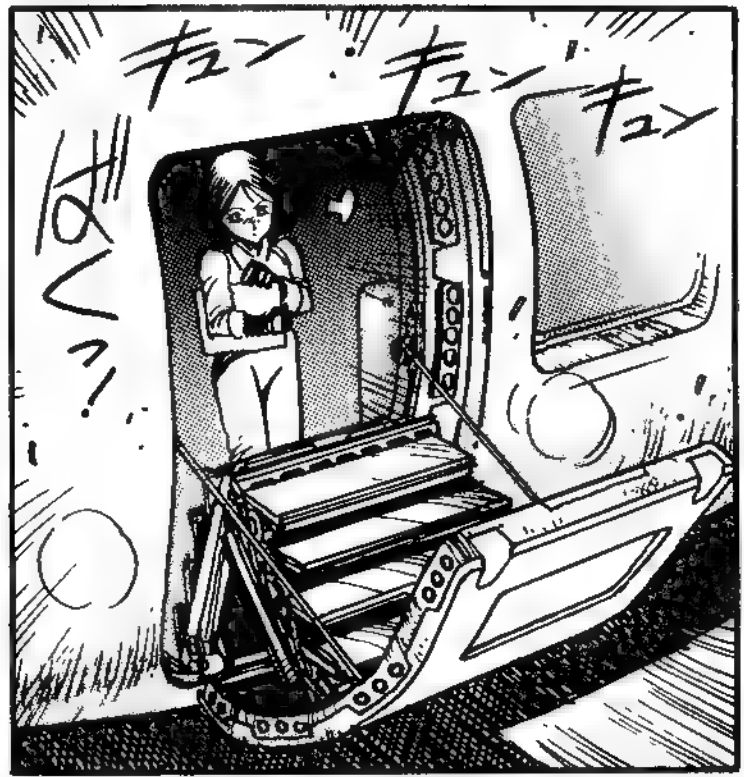
*FX FSSHH

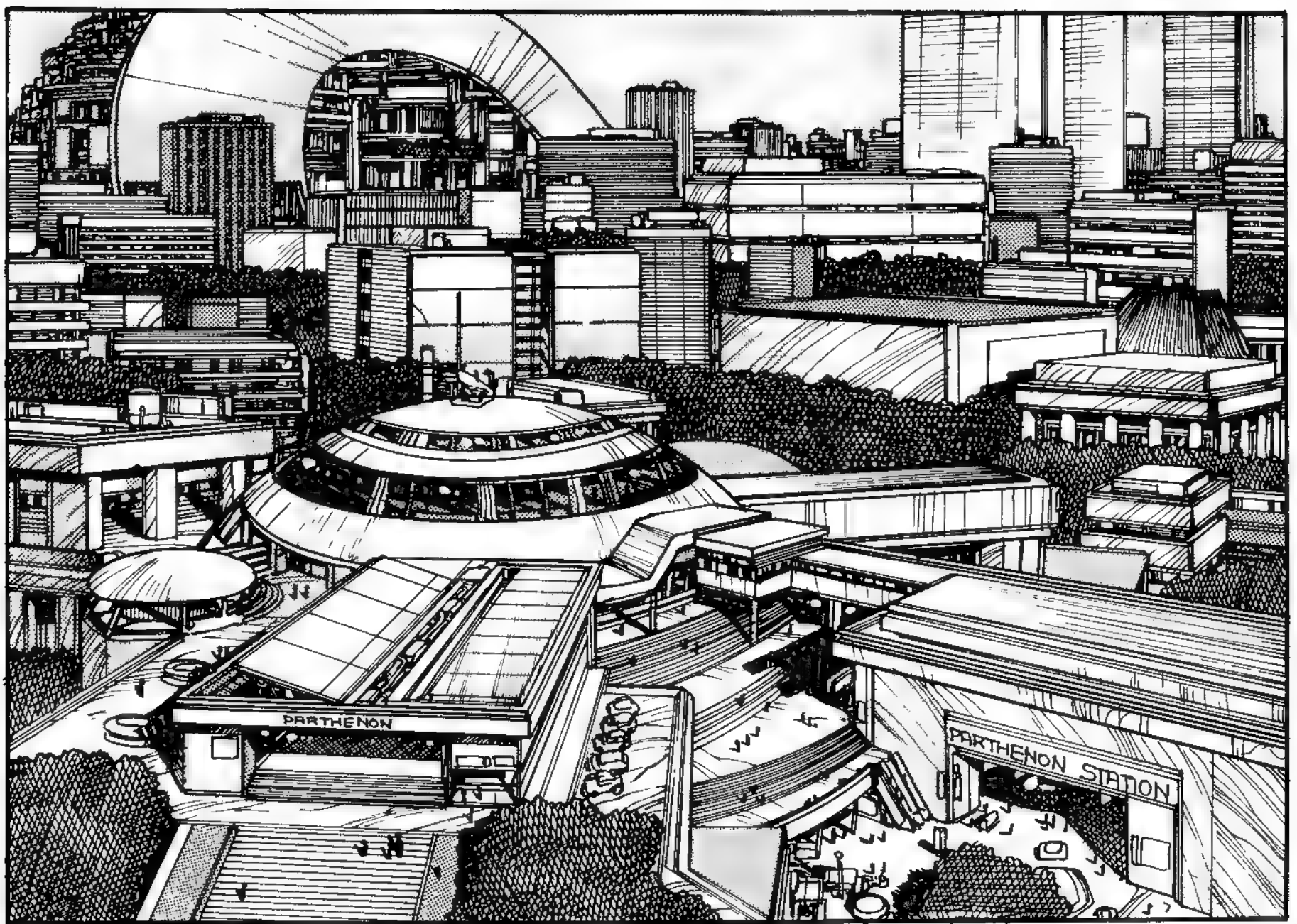
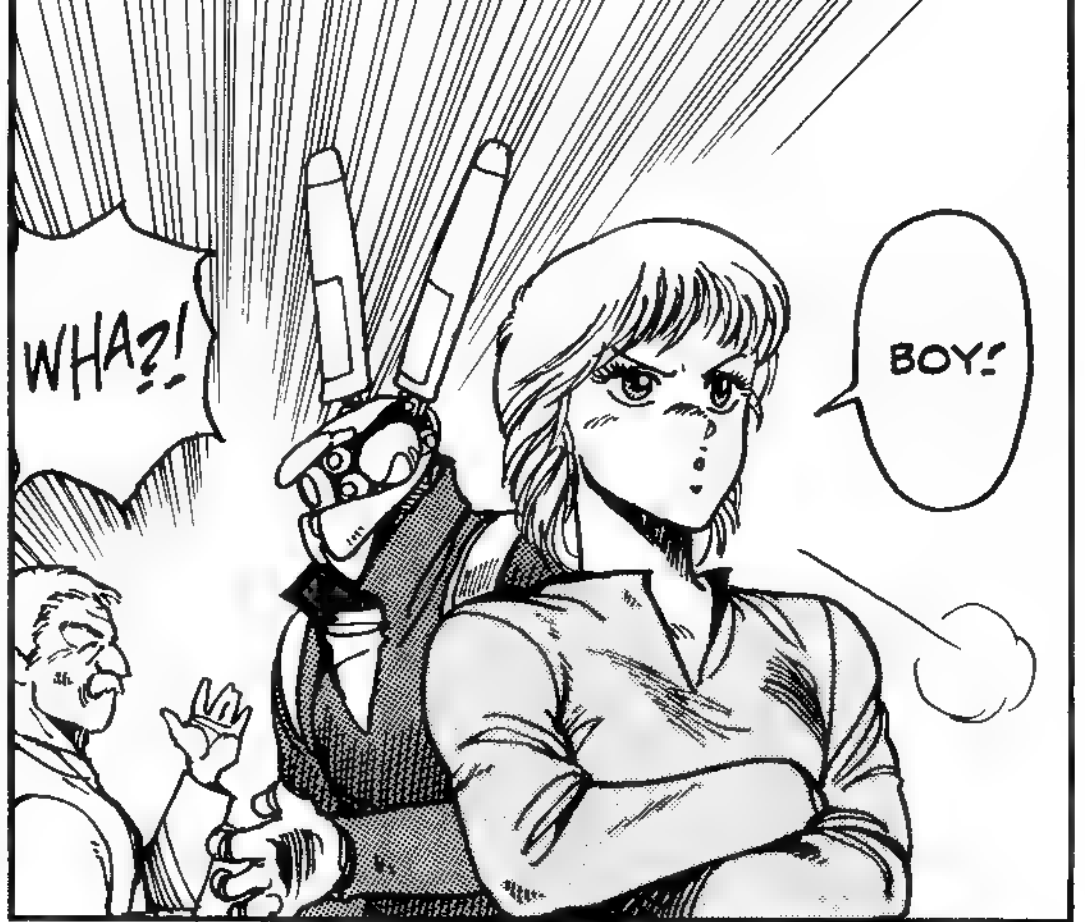
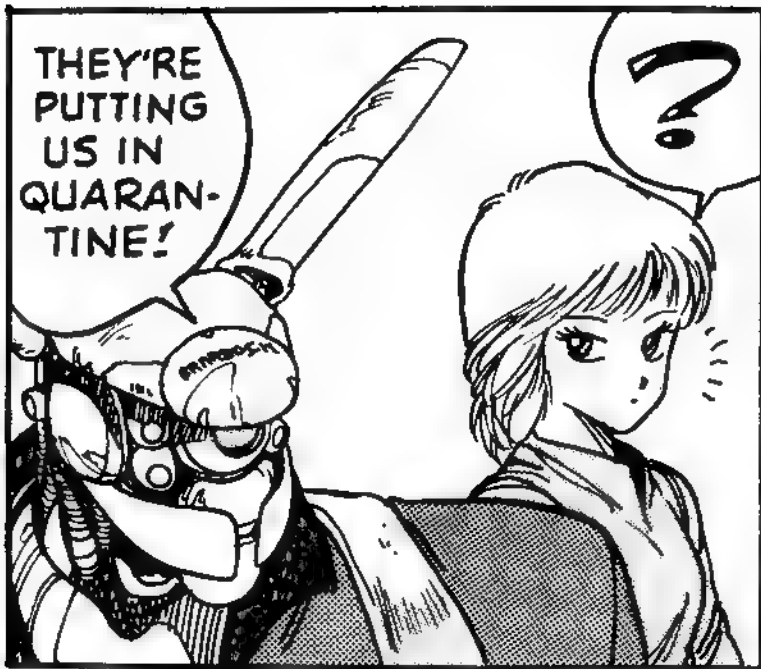


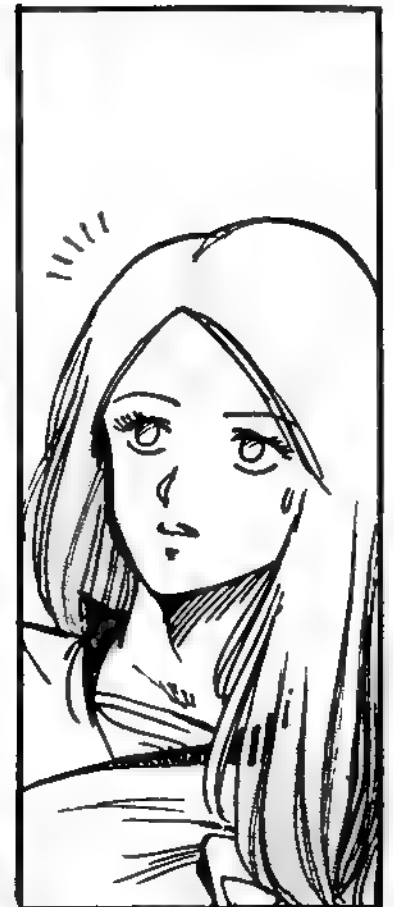
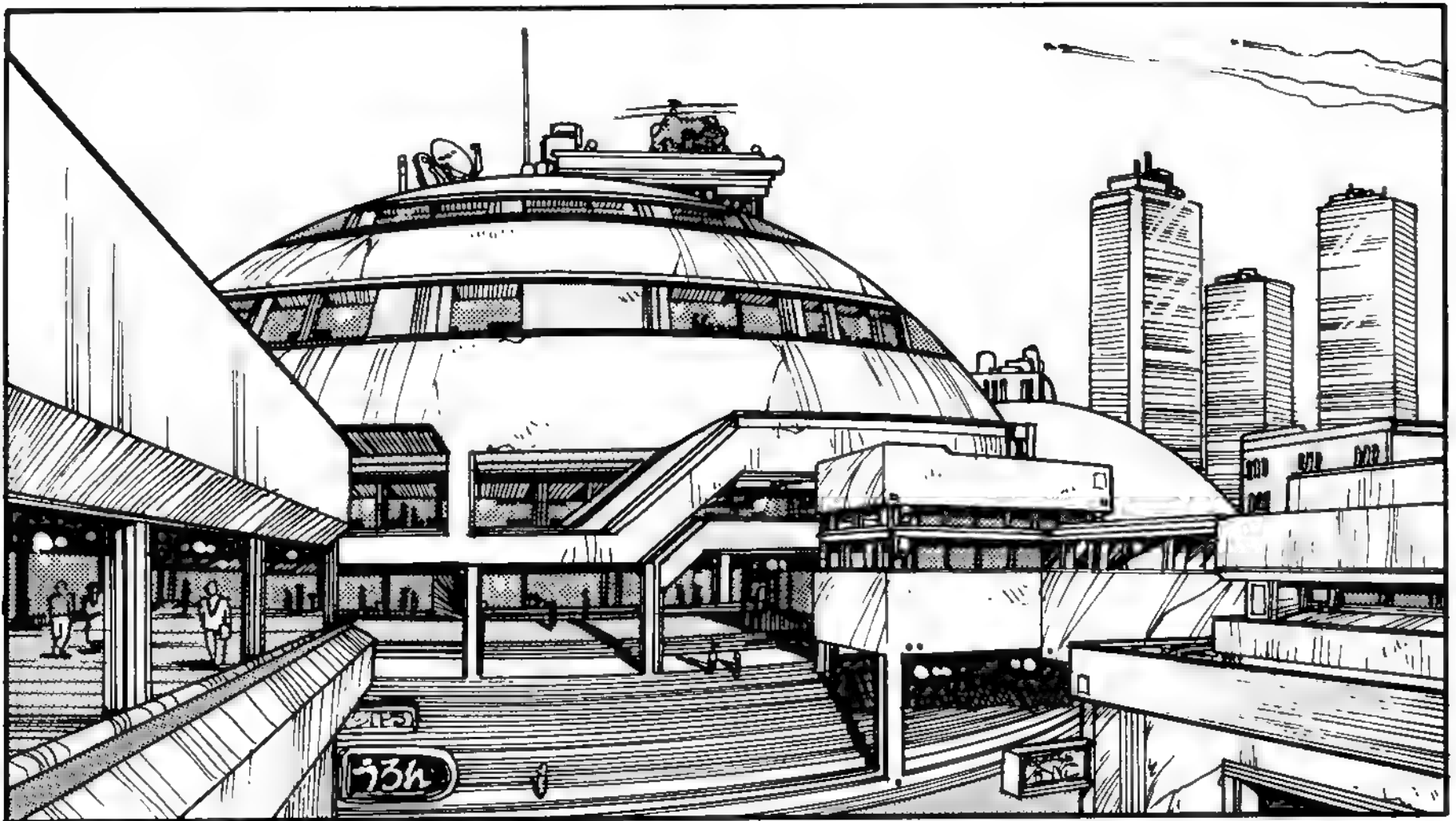
*FX WHHF WHHF

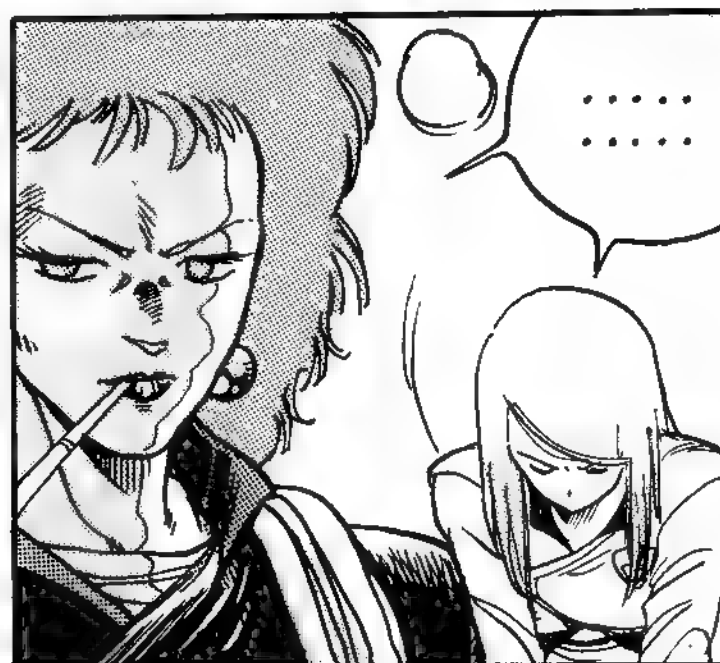
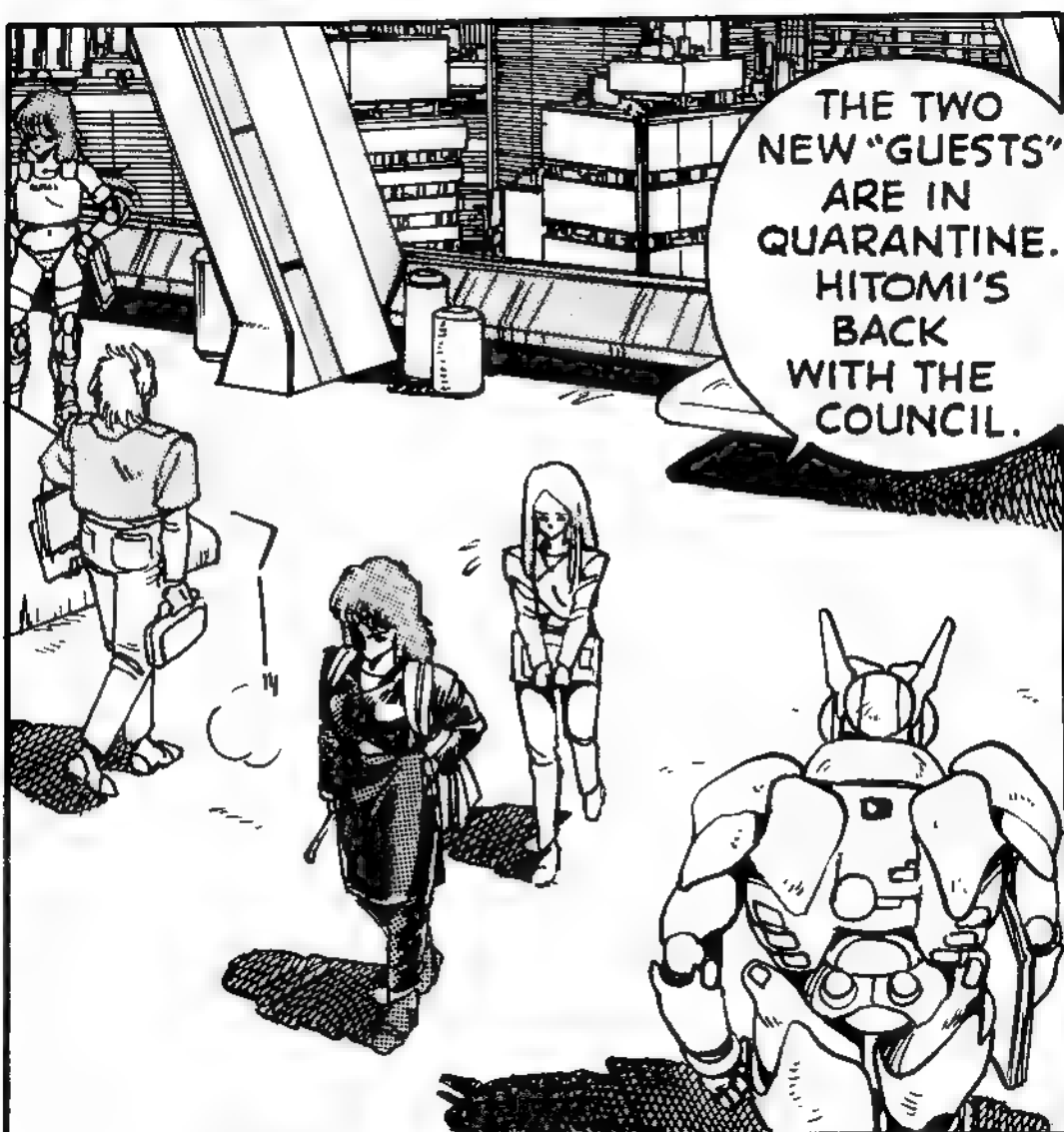
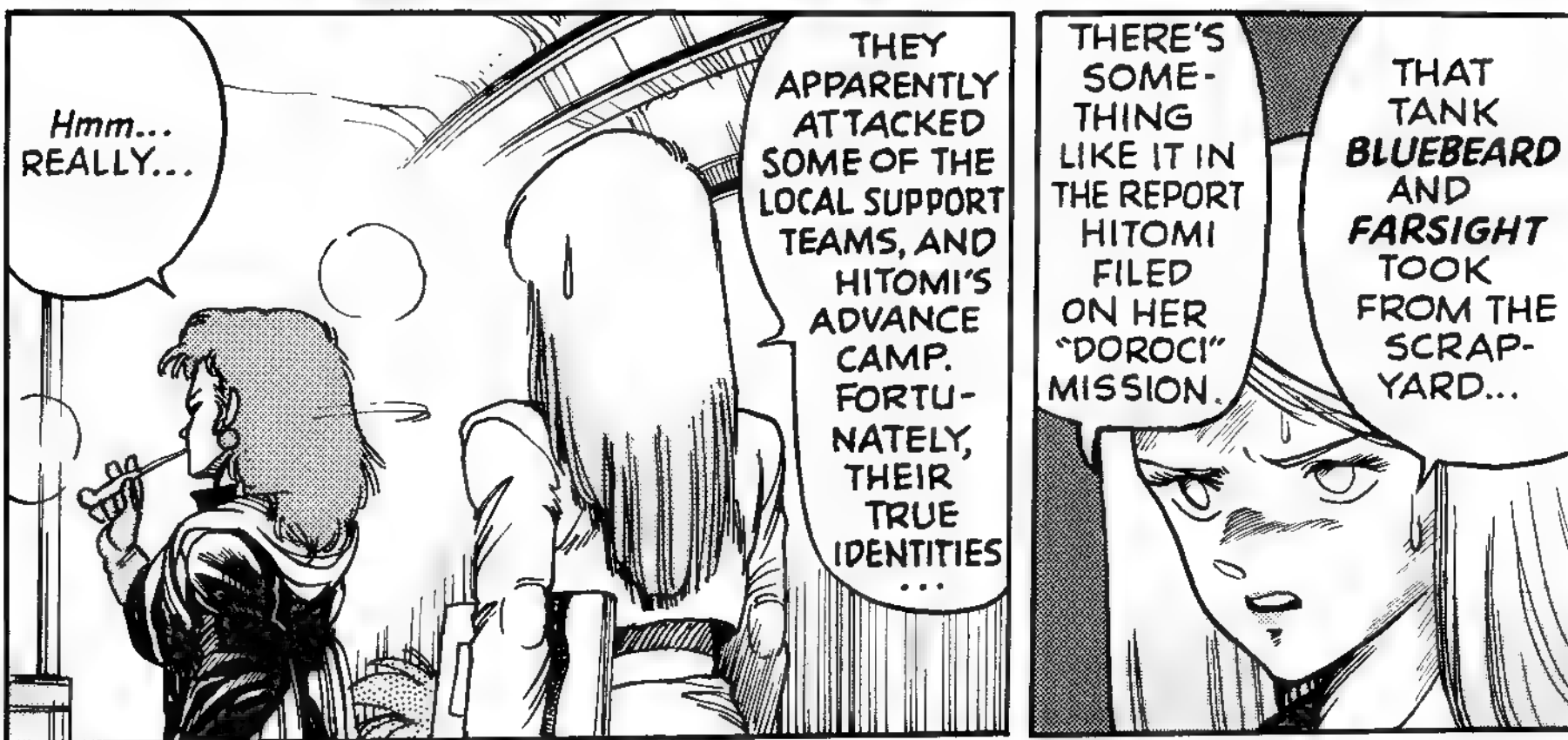
*FX GCHNK

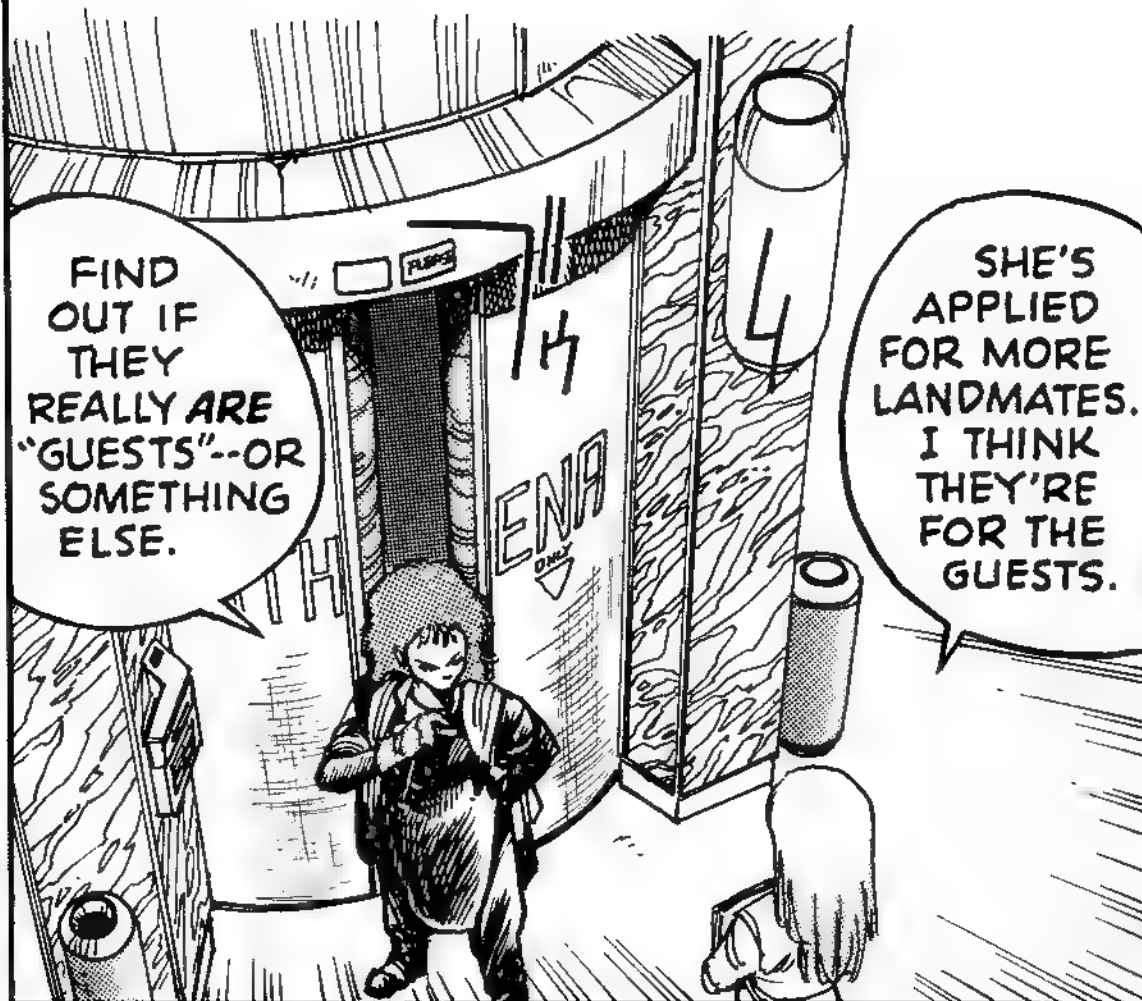
*FX WHH WHHF WHHF



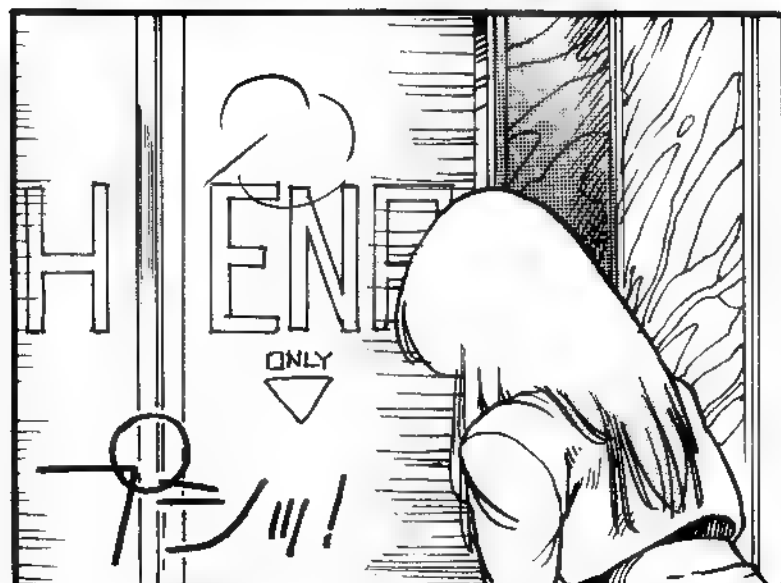








*FX MMMM

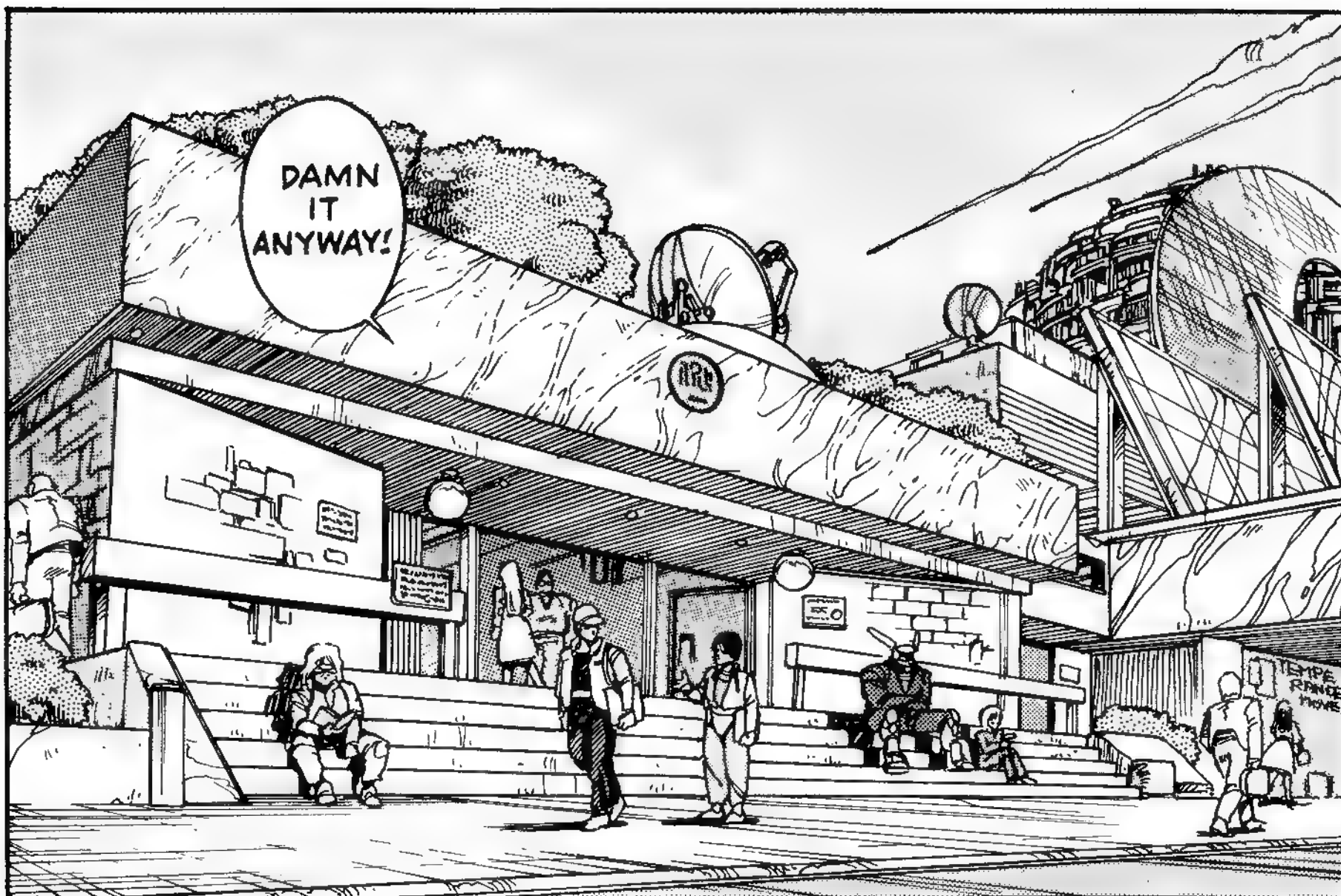


*FX FSSHH



*Integrator: a moving walkway.





NONE
OF THEIR
DAMN
BUSINESS
!

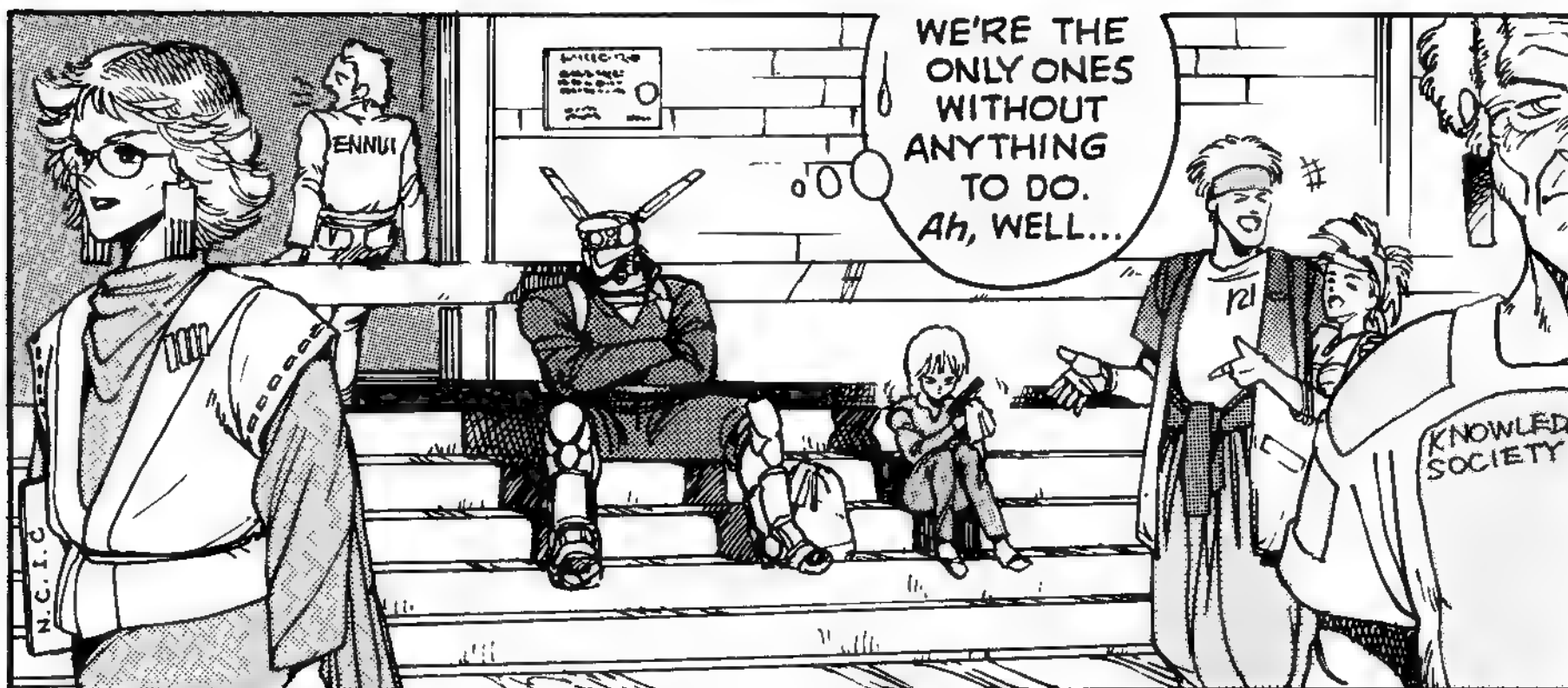
IT'S A
MEMENTO
OF MY
FATHER!
A KEEPSAKE!
NOT A
WEAPON!



YOU'RE
IMPOS-
SIBLE...



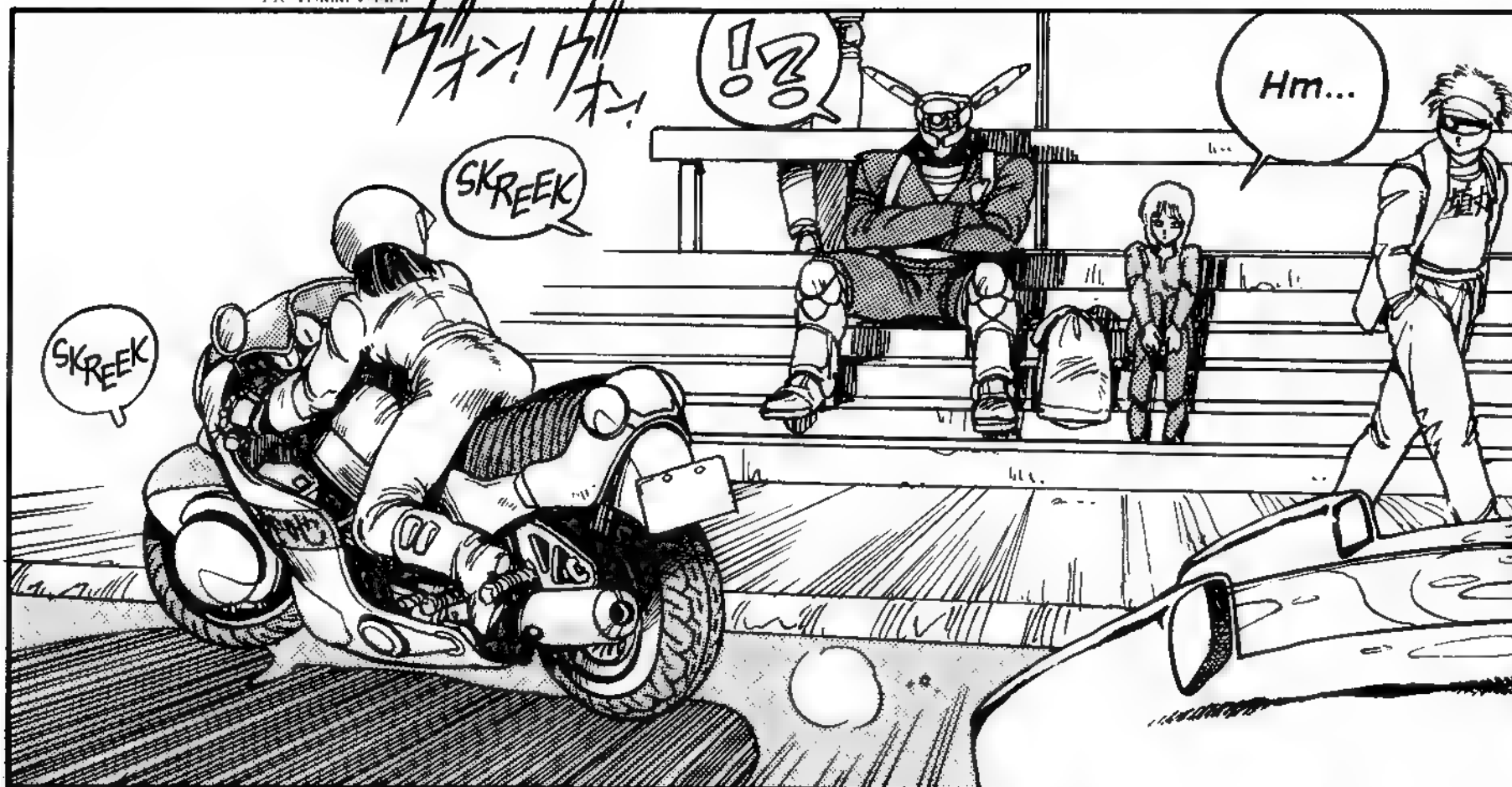
THEY
SHOULD HAVE
JUST TAKEN
THE **BULLETS**
AND LET ME
KEEP IT IN
THE **FIRST**
PLACE!



WE'RE THE
ONLY ONES
WITHOUT
ANYTHING
TO DO.
Ah, WELL...

KNOWLEDGE
SOCIETY

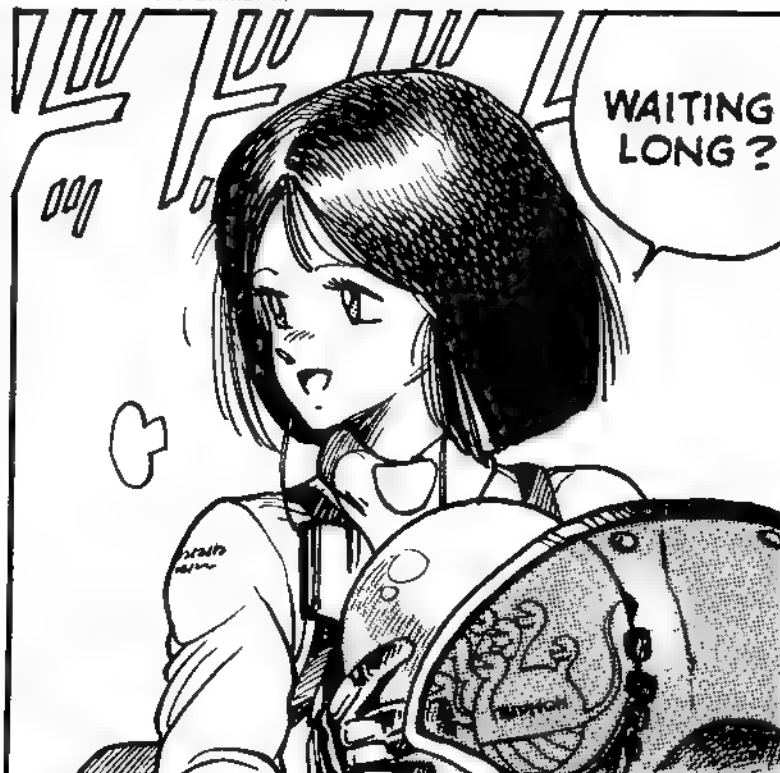
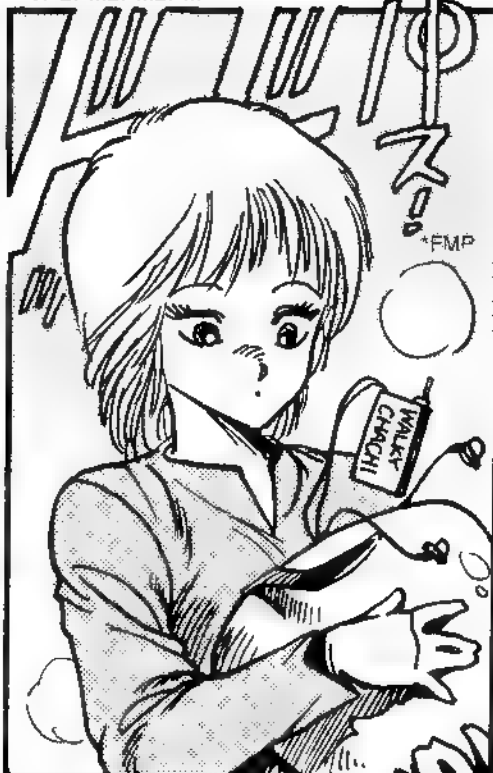
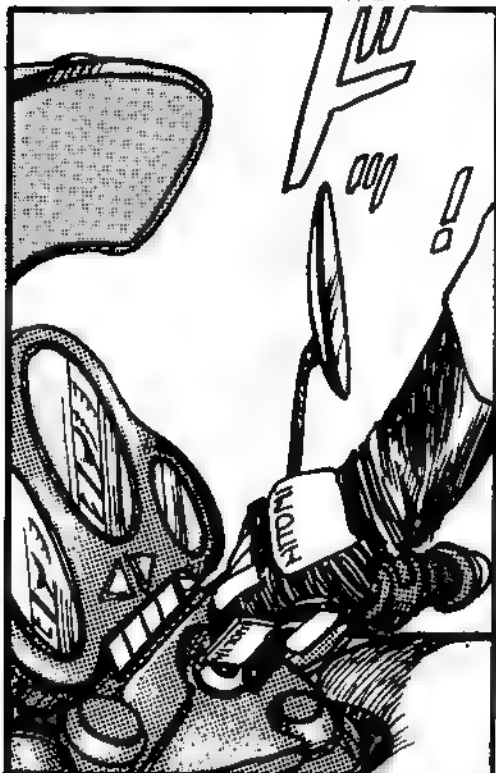
*FX VRMM VRMM

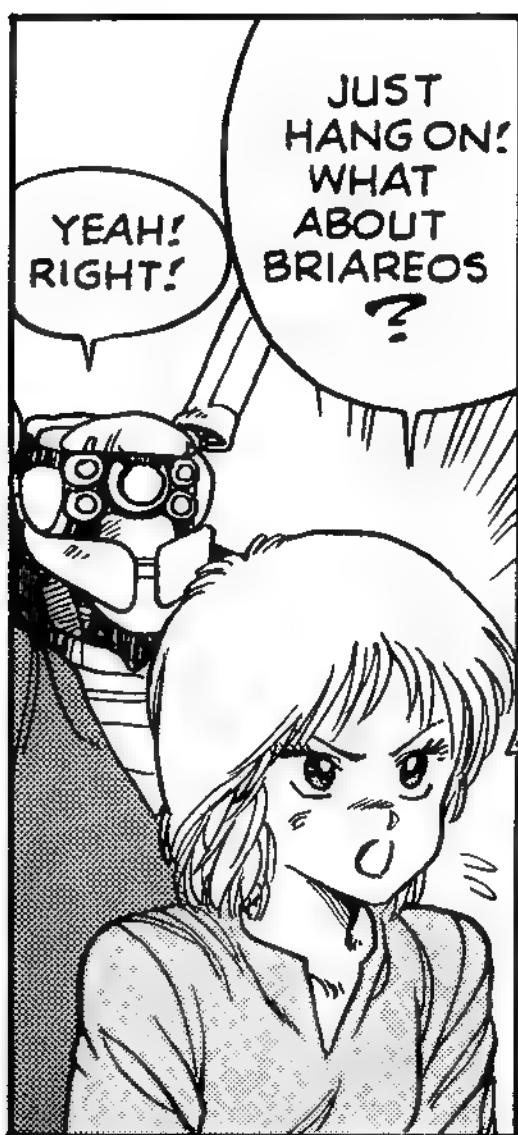


*FX BRR

*FX BRMBRMBRM

*FX BRMBRM

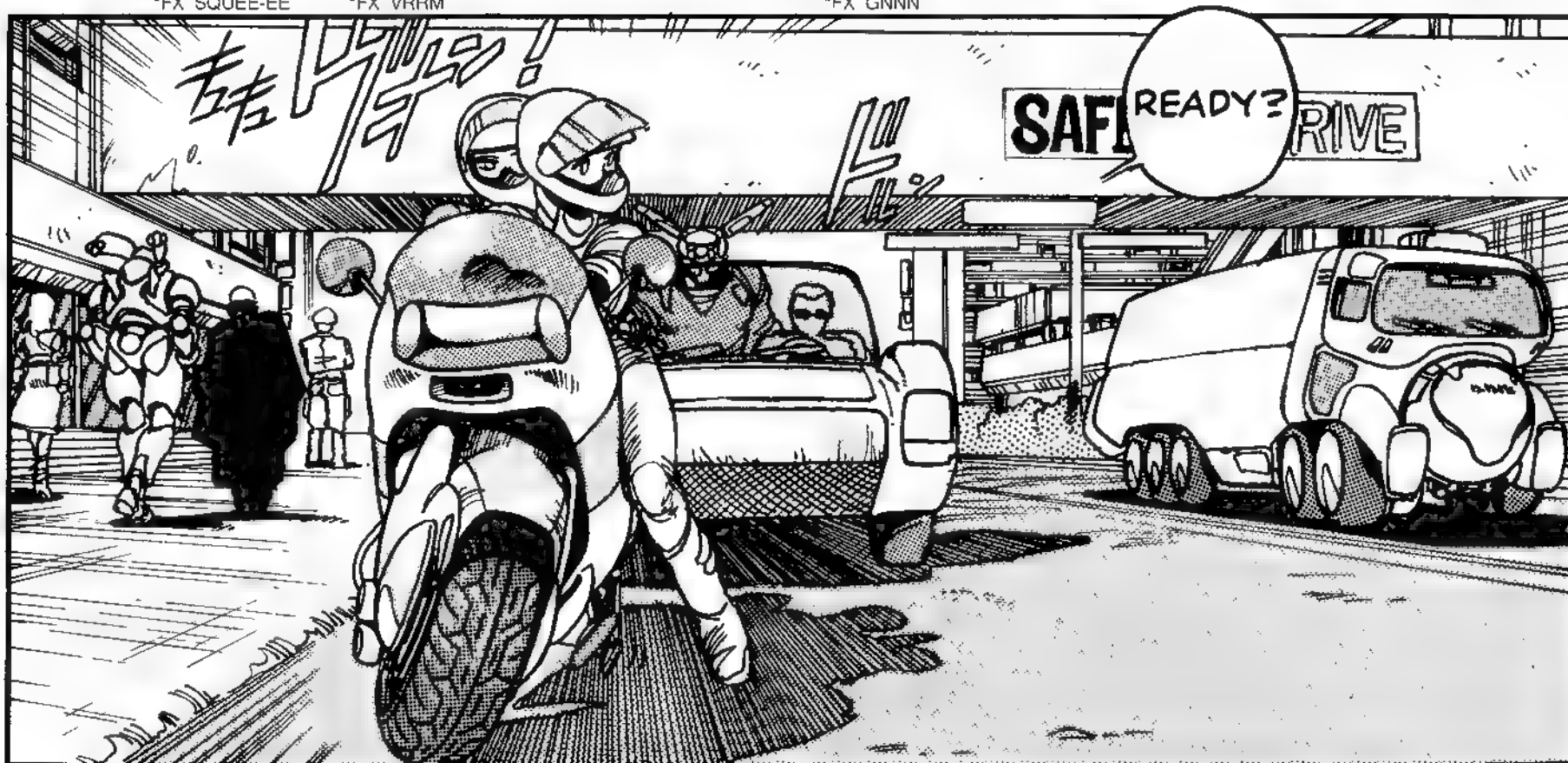




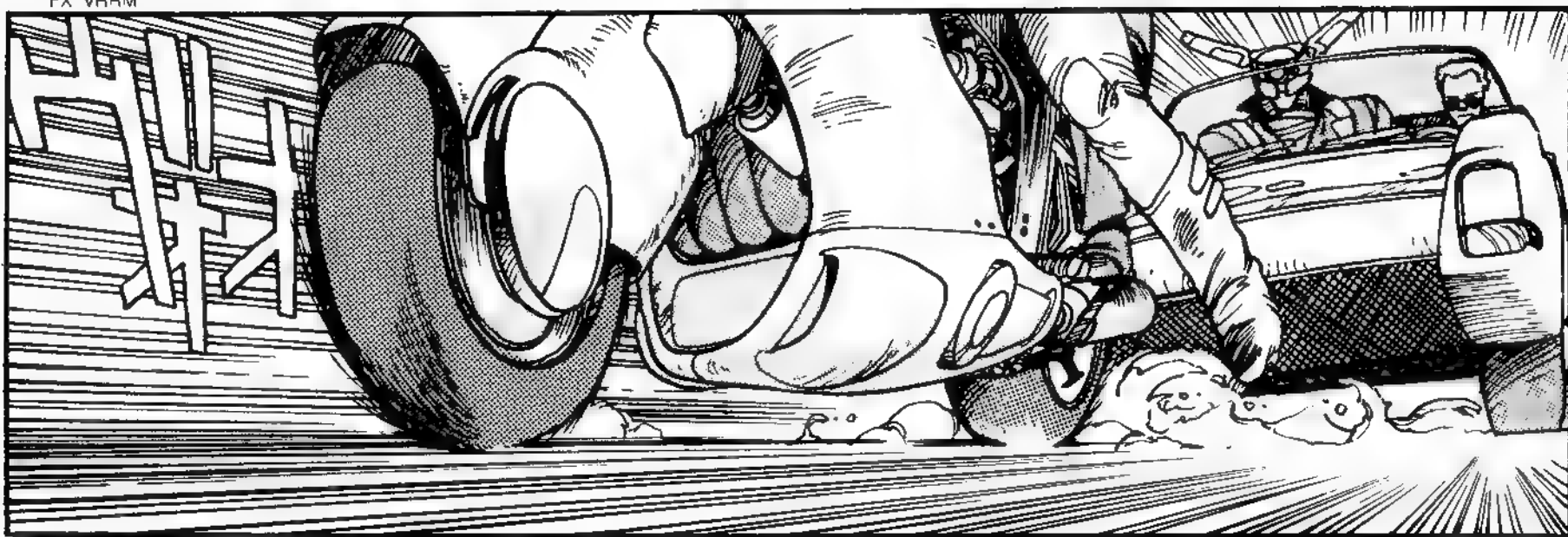
*FX SQUEE-EE

*FX VRRM

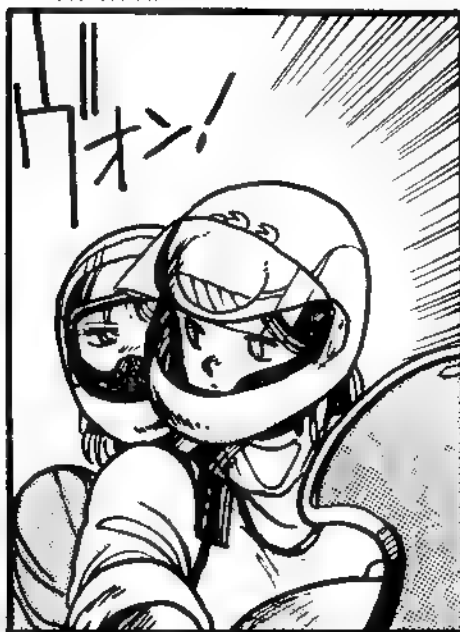
*FX GNNN



*FX VRRM

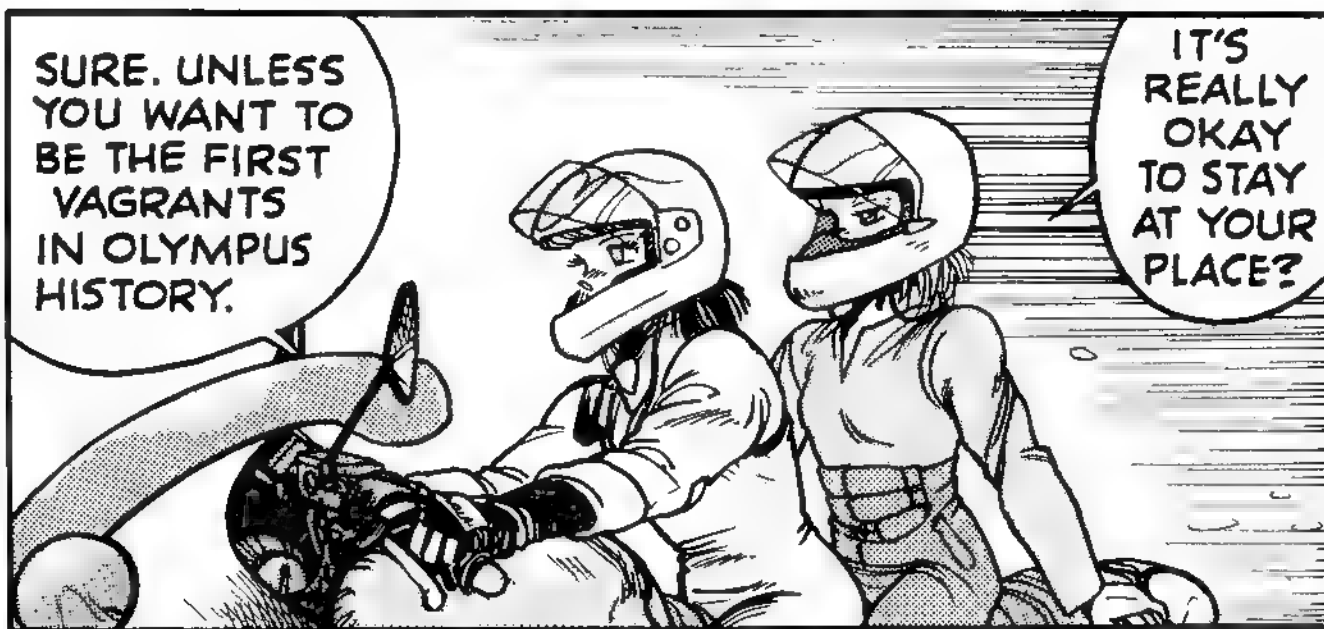


*FX VRRM



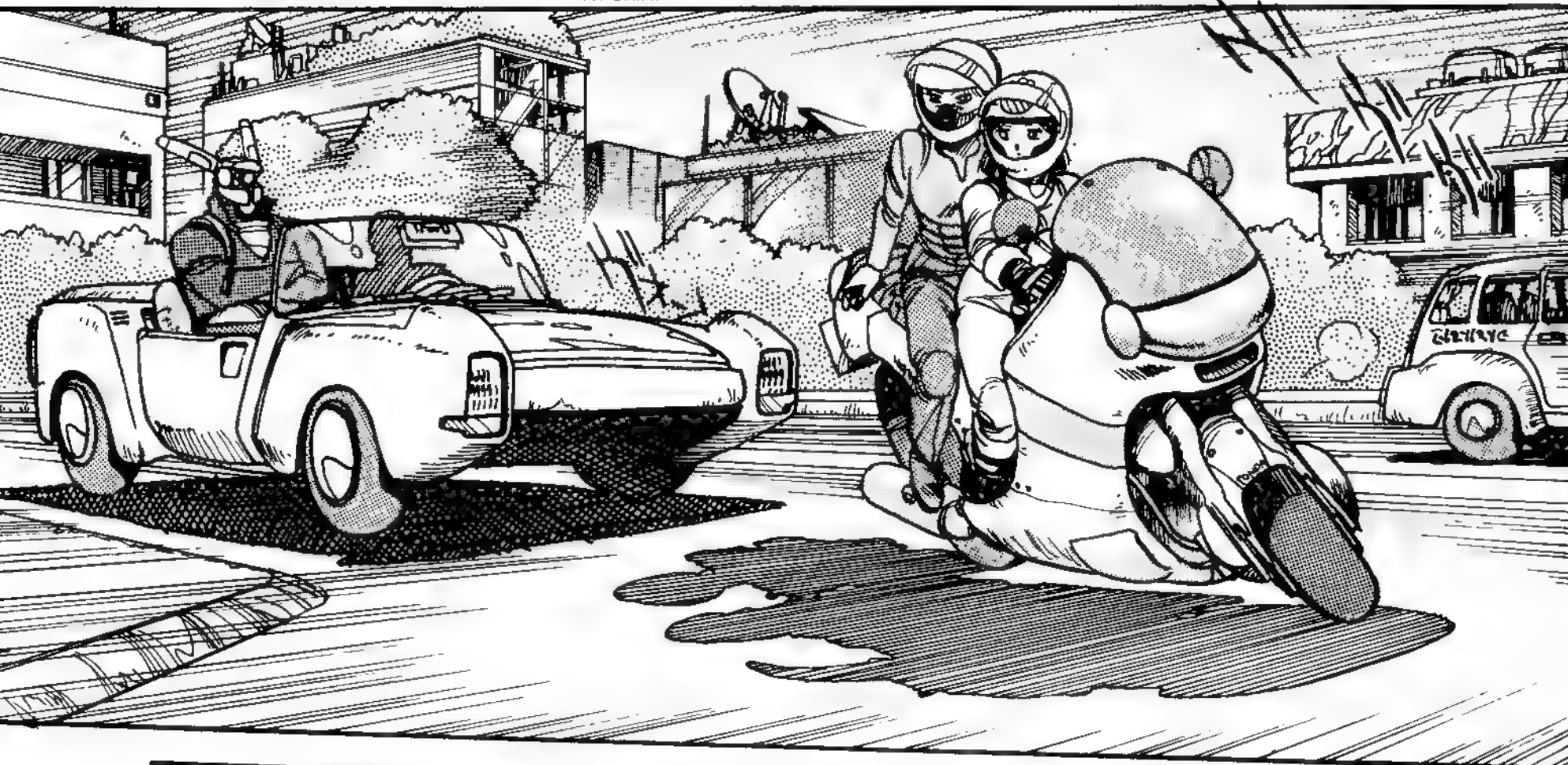
SURE. UNLESS
YOU WANT TO
BE THE FIRST
VAGRANTS
IN OLYMPUS
HISTORY.

IT'S
REALLY
OKAY
TO STAY
AT YOUR
PLACE?



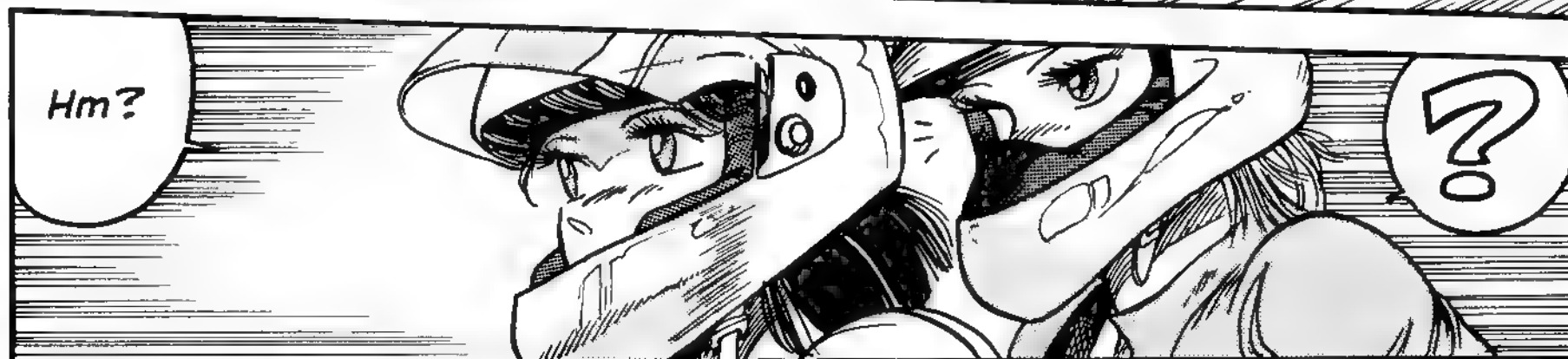
*FX BRMM

*FX VRRM



Hm?

?



REALLY?
SO
WHAT
KEEPS US
FROM
GOING
OVER
?

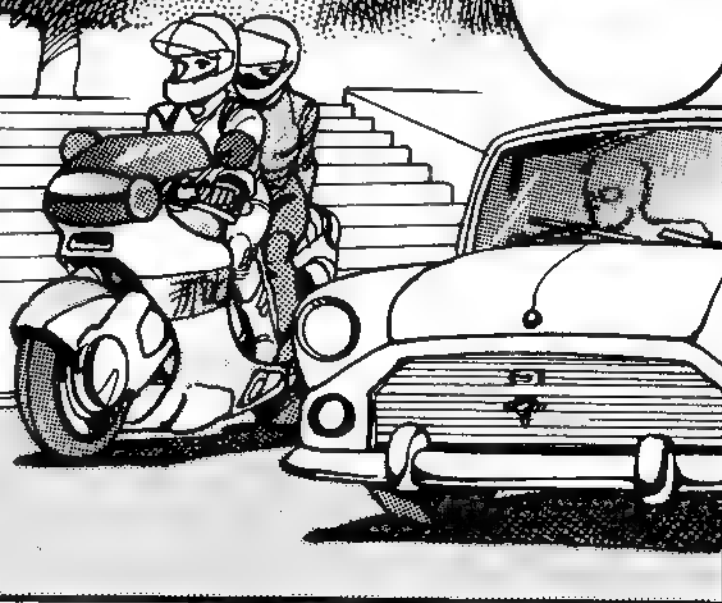


THE FORKS ARE
FREE-FLOATING...
THE SLOWER YOU
GO, THE SHARPER
YOU TURN.

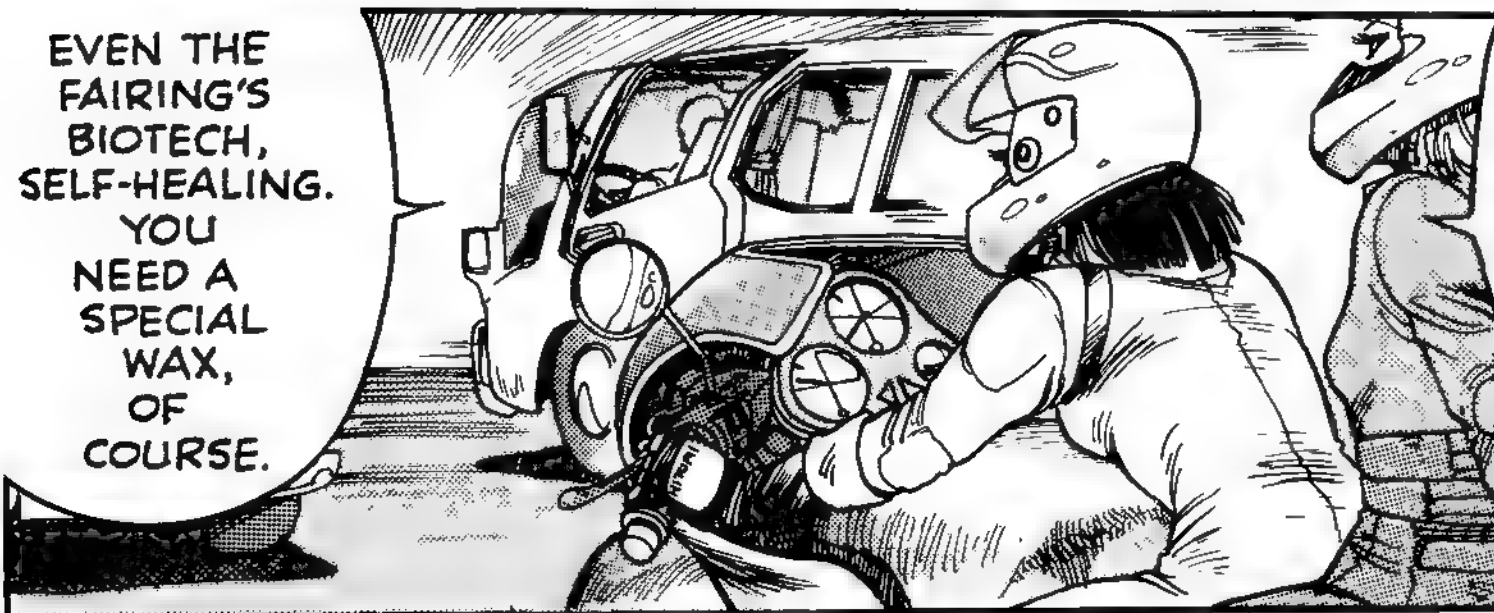


Uh-huh.

THIS
BIKE'S
WEIRD.



EVEN THE
FAIRING'S
BIOTECH,
SELF-HEALING.
YOU
NEED A
SPECIAL
WAX,
OF
COURSE.



COMPUTERIZED
DRIVE-BY-
WIRE, A
SPIN-OFF
FROM
CYBERJOINT
ENGINEERING.

'FUNCTIONAL
SIMPLICITY,
STRUCTURAL
COMPLEXITY:
THE BEST LIFE
FOR ALL.' THAT'S
THE MAXIM
THE CITY
PLANNERS
GAVE OUR
MANAGERS.

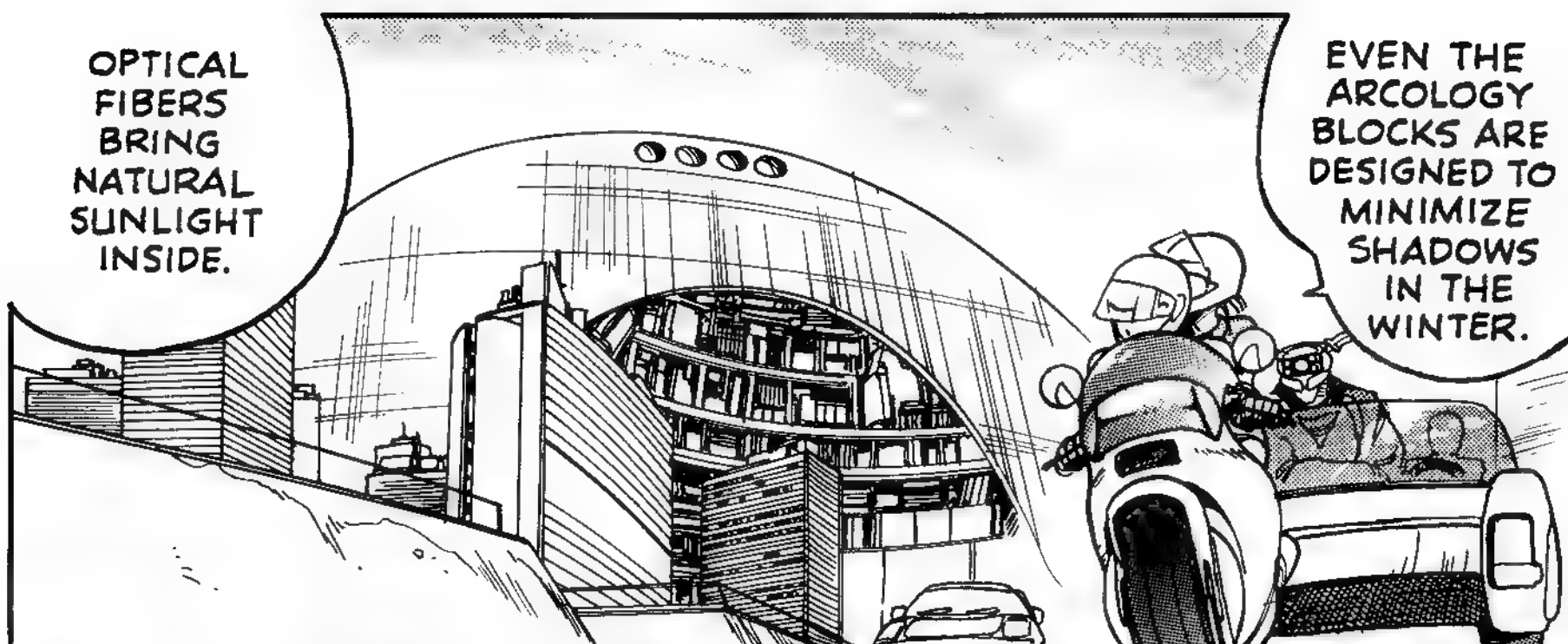


BUT
THAT'S
'CAUSE
OUR
BASIC
PHILOSOPHY
IS
'PEOPLE
FIRST.'

EVERYTHING
IN THE
CITY'S
CYBERNETIC.

I
THOUGHT
HYBRID
MATERIALS
WERE HOT
STUFF. BUT
THAT IS
CREEPY!





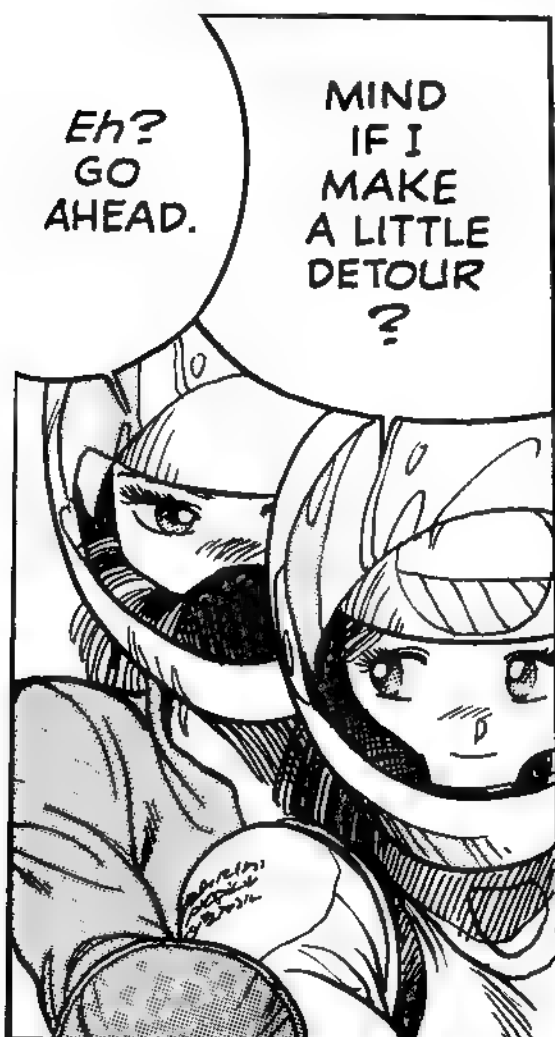
OPTICAL
FIBERS
BRING
NATURAL
SUNLIGHT
INSIDE.

EVEN THE
ARCOLOGY
BLOCKS ARE
DESIGNED TO
MINIMIZE
SHADOWS
IN THE
WINTER.



IF WE
WANTED,
WE COULD
TURN
NIGHT
INTO
DAY.

OPTO-
ELECTRONICS
LET YOU
TWO GET
THROUGH
REGIS-
TRATION SO
QUICKLY.

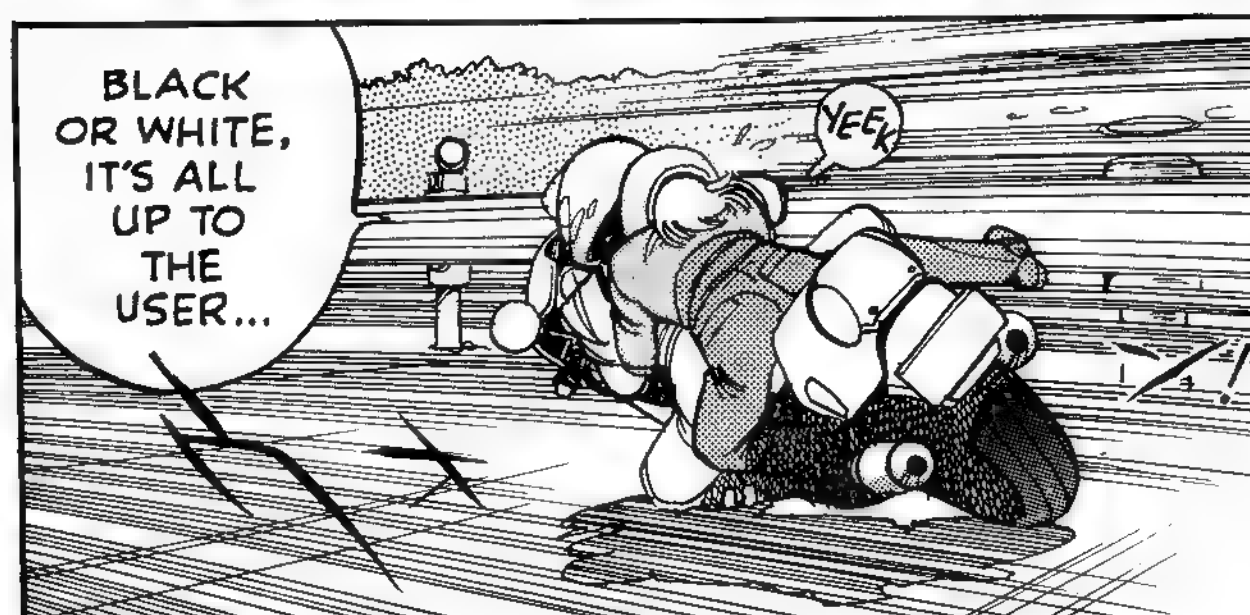


Eh?
GO
AHEAD.

MIND
IF I
MAKE
A LITTLE
DETOUR
?



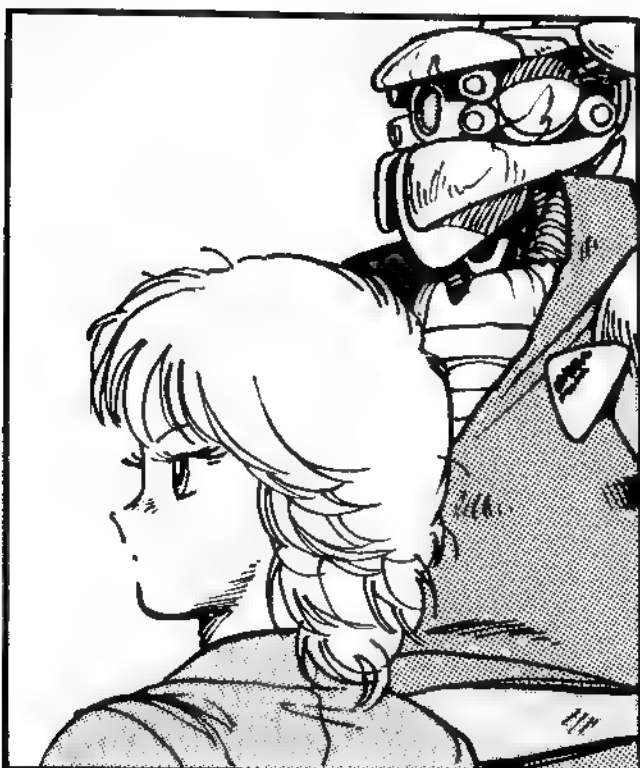
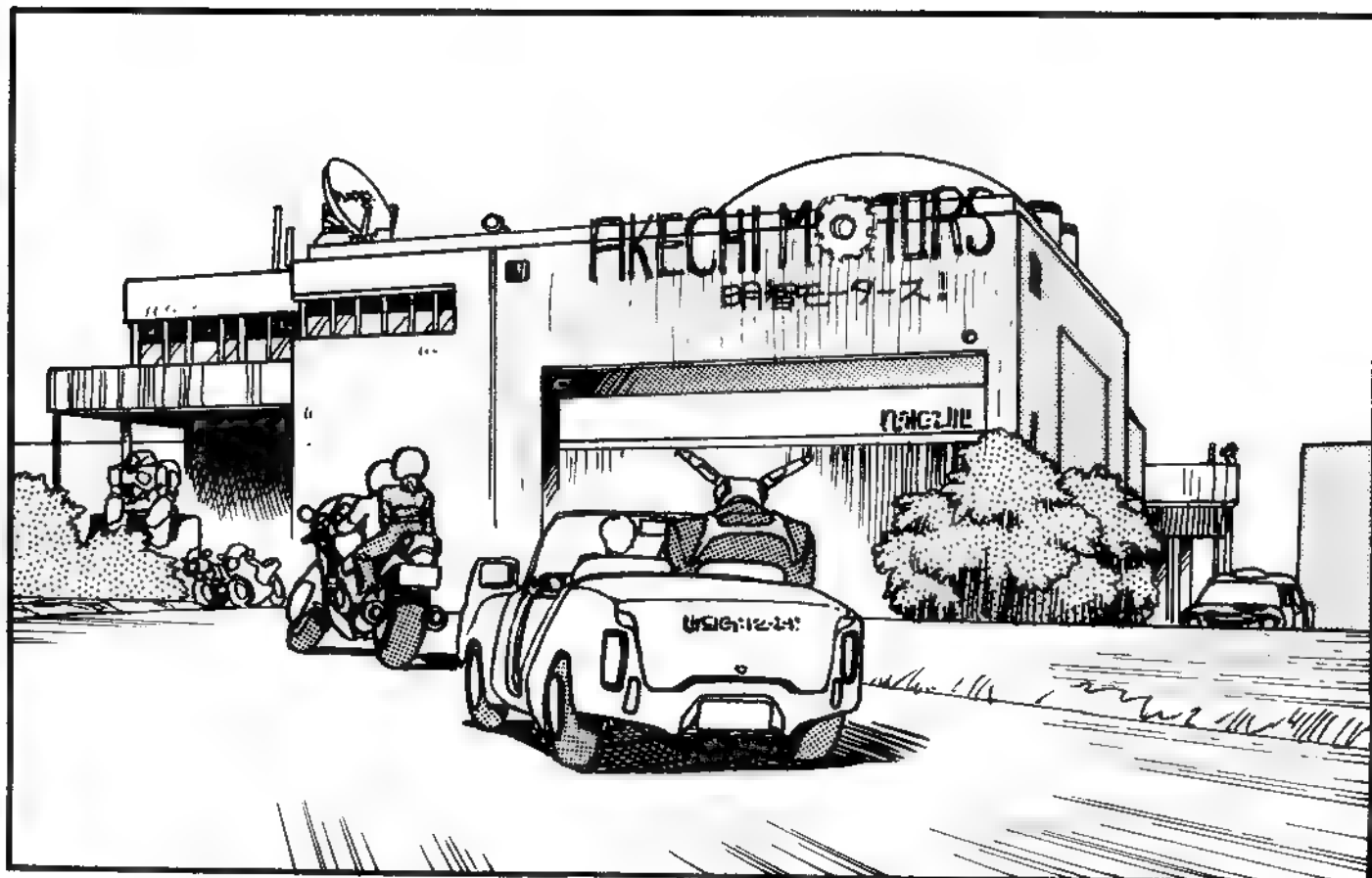
SCIENCE,
THE
NEW
BLACK
MAGIC...



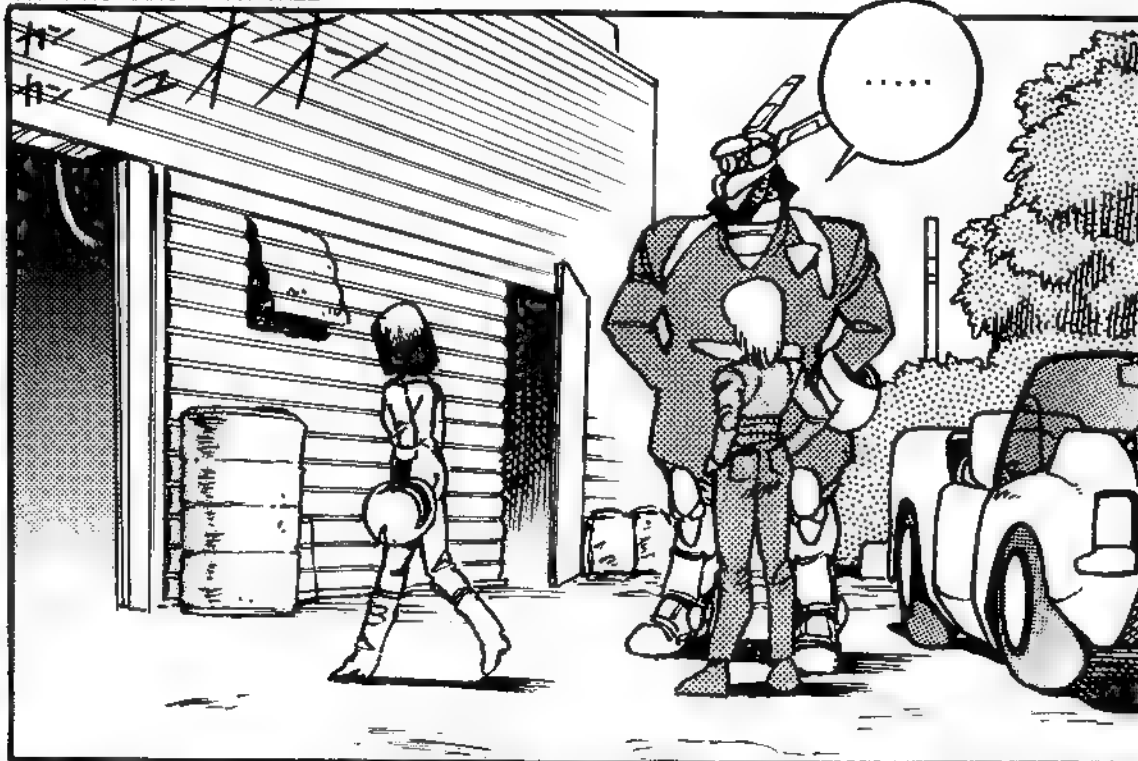
BLACK
OR WHITE,
IT'S ALL
UP TO
THE
USER...

YEEK

*FX SKREE



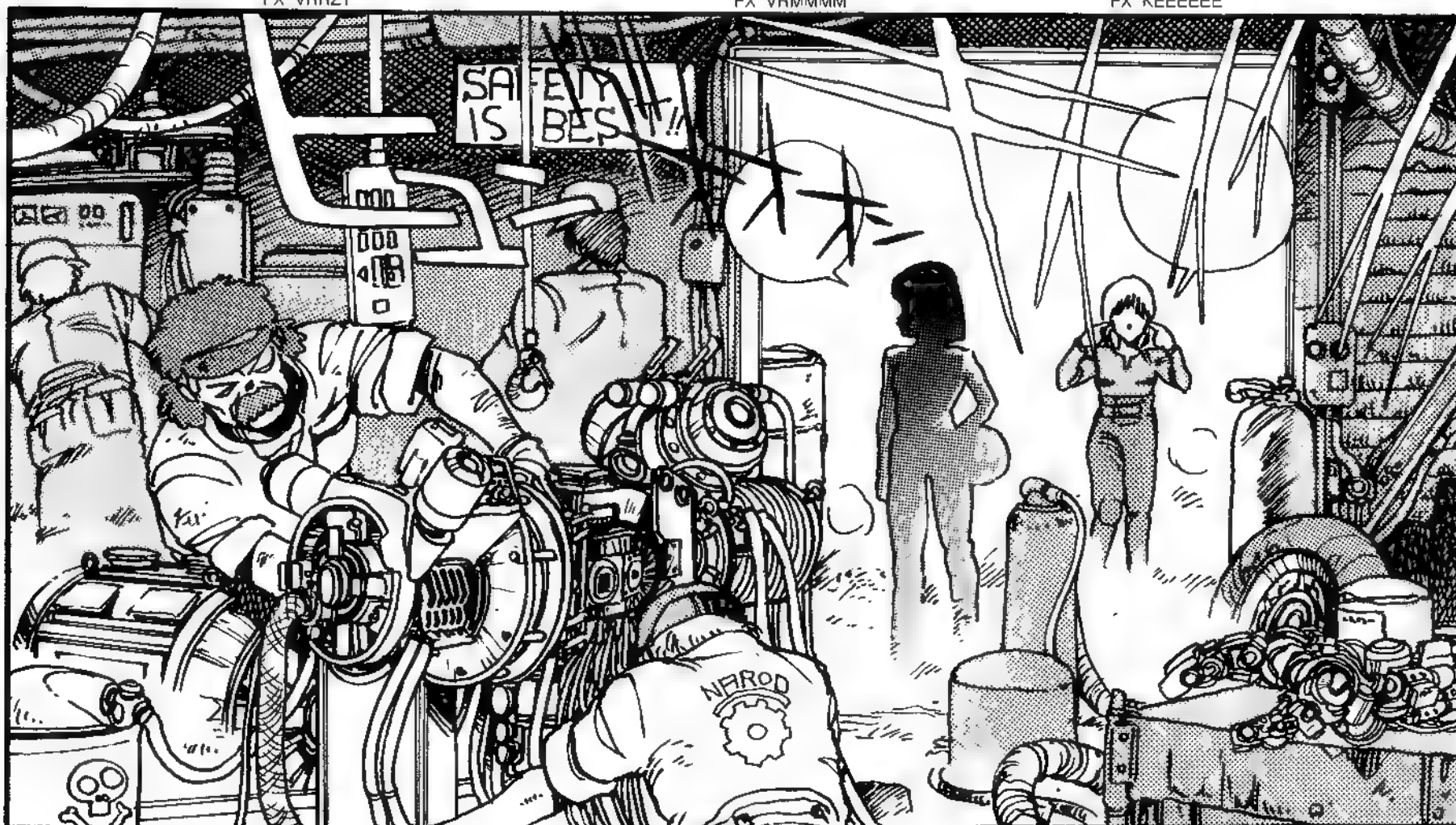
*FX KANG KANG *FX VRZZ

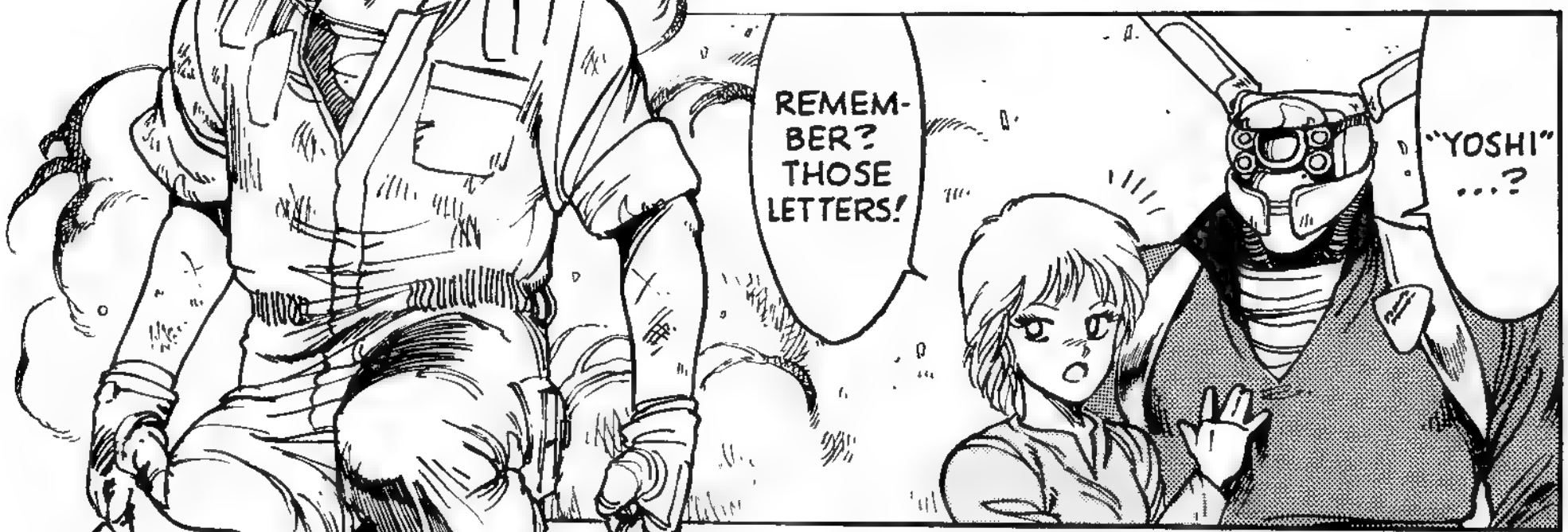
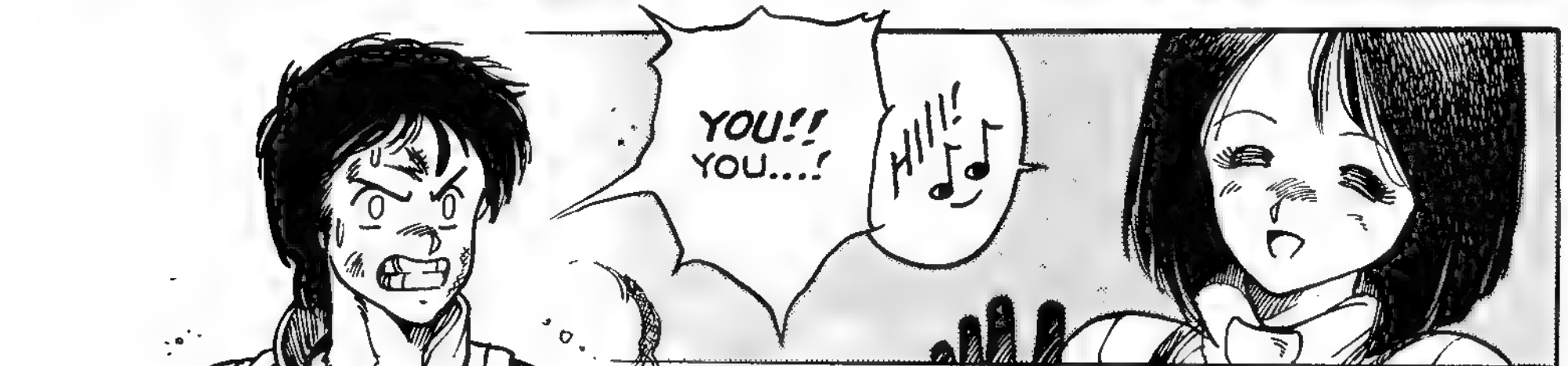
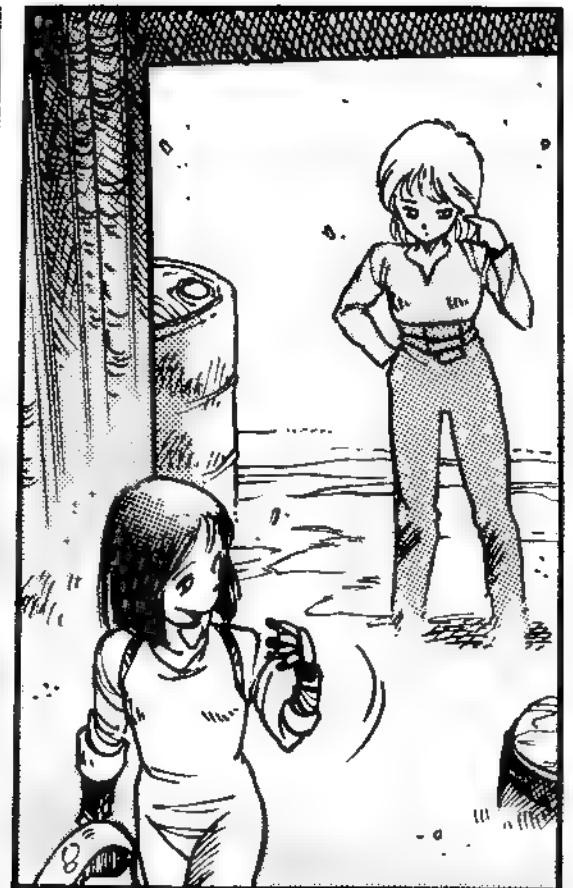
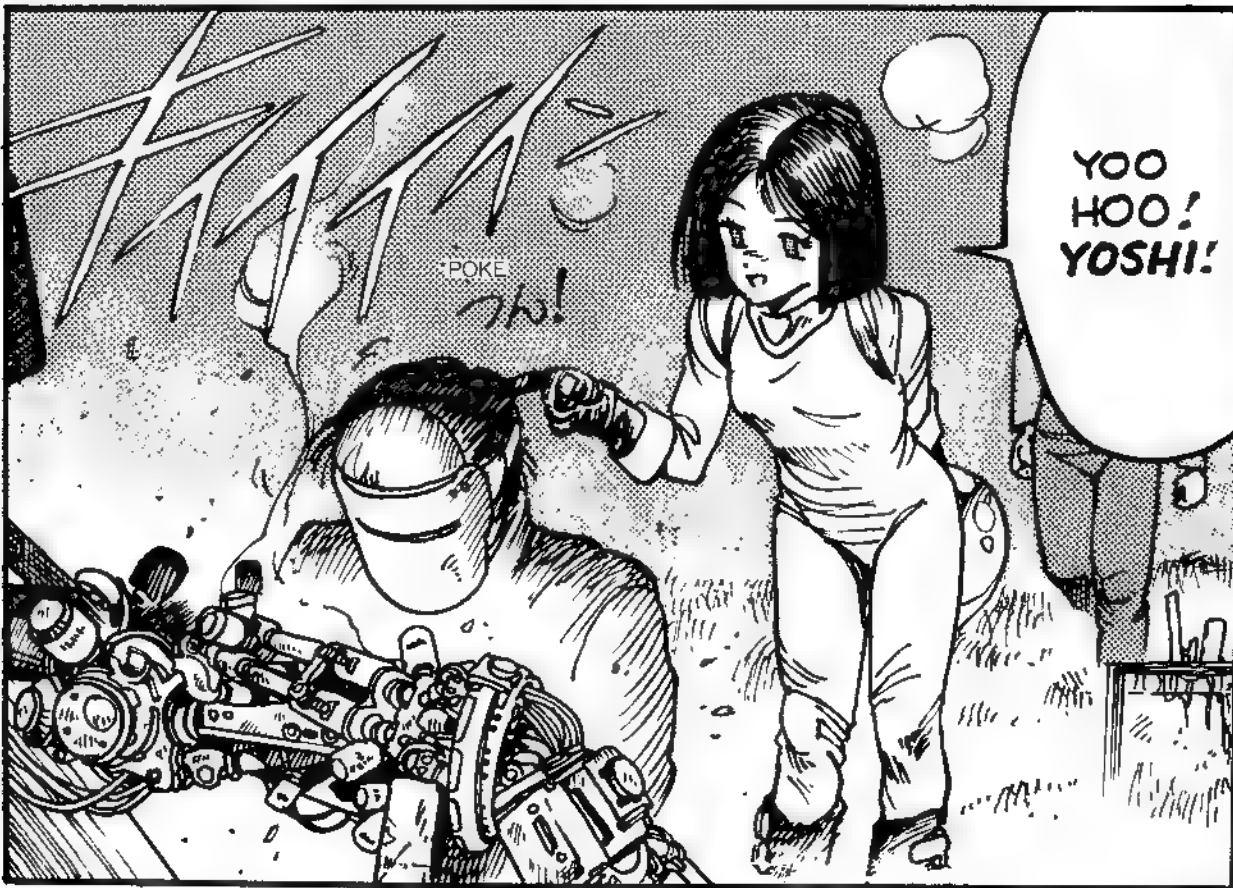


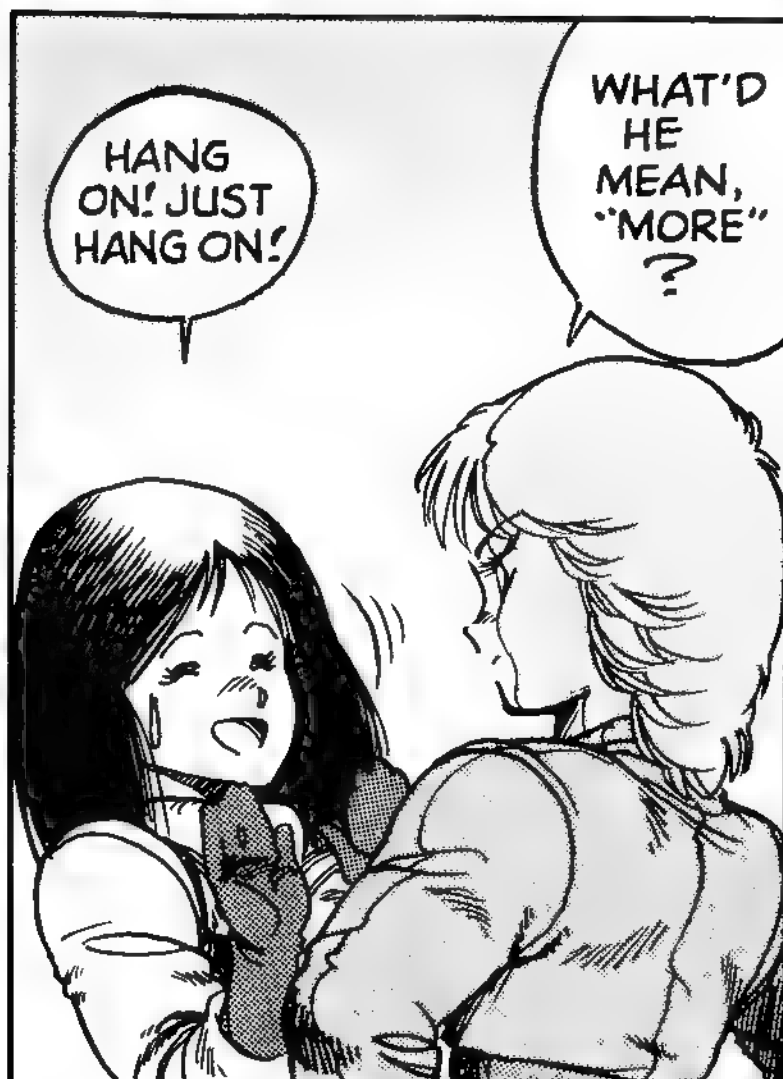
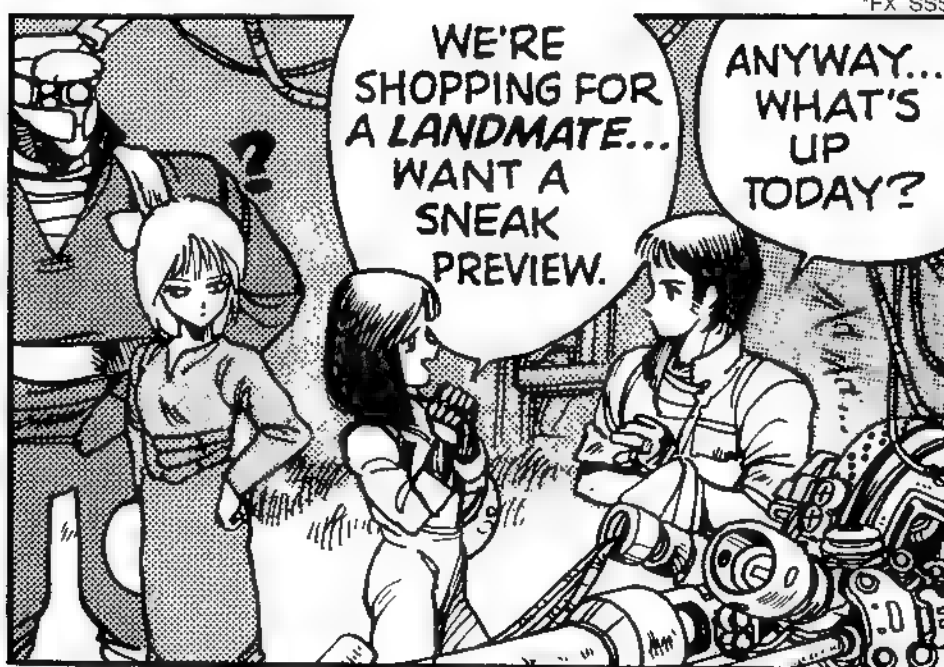
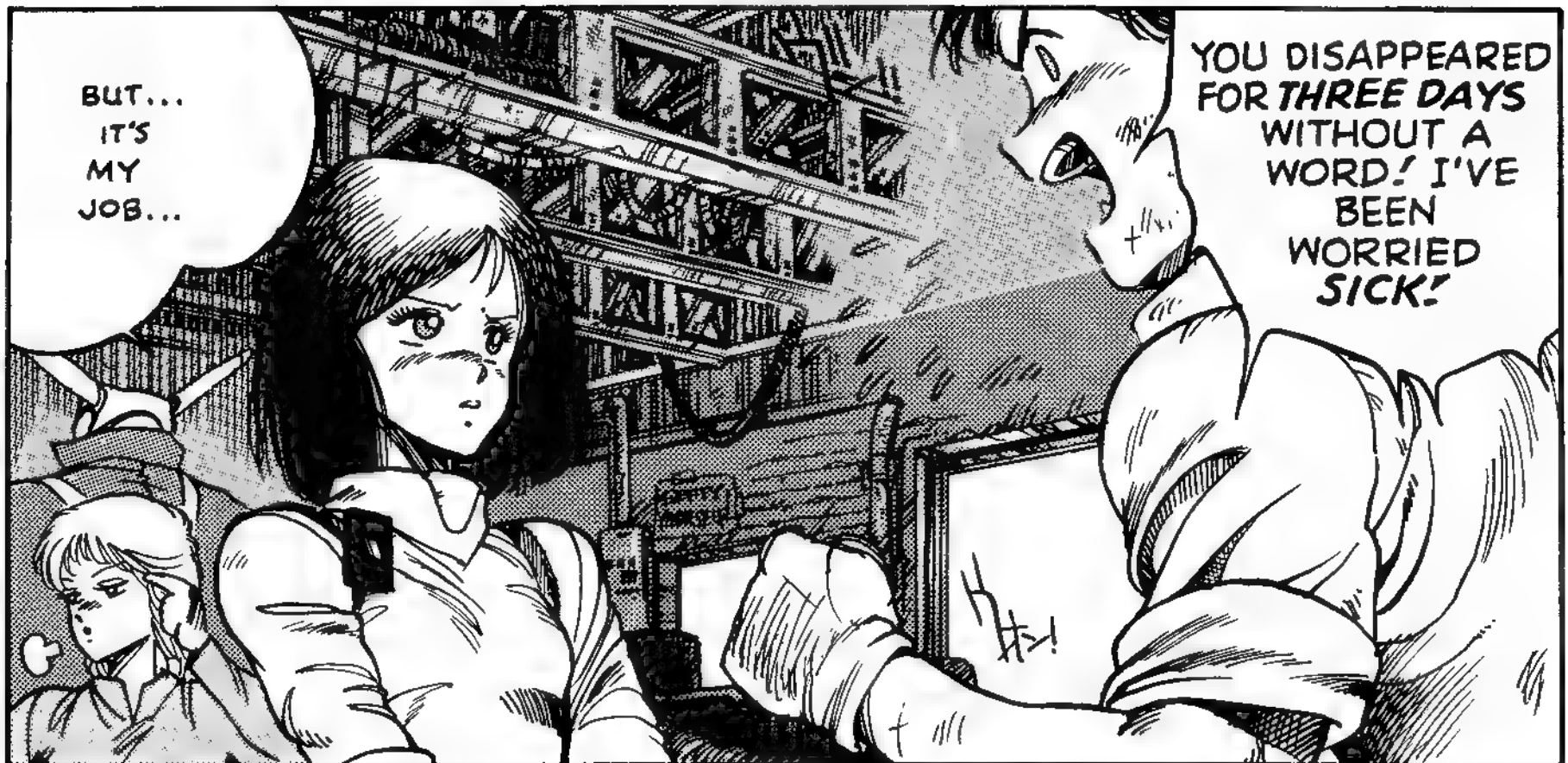
*FX VRRZT

*FX VRMMM

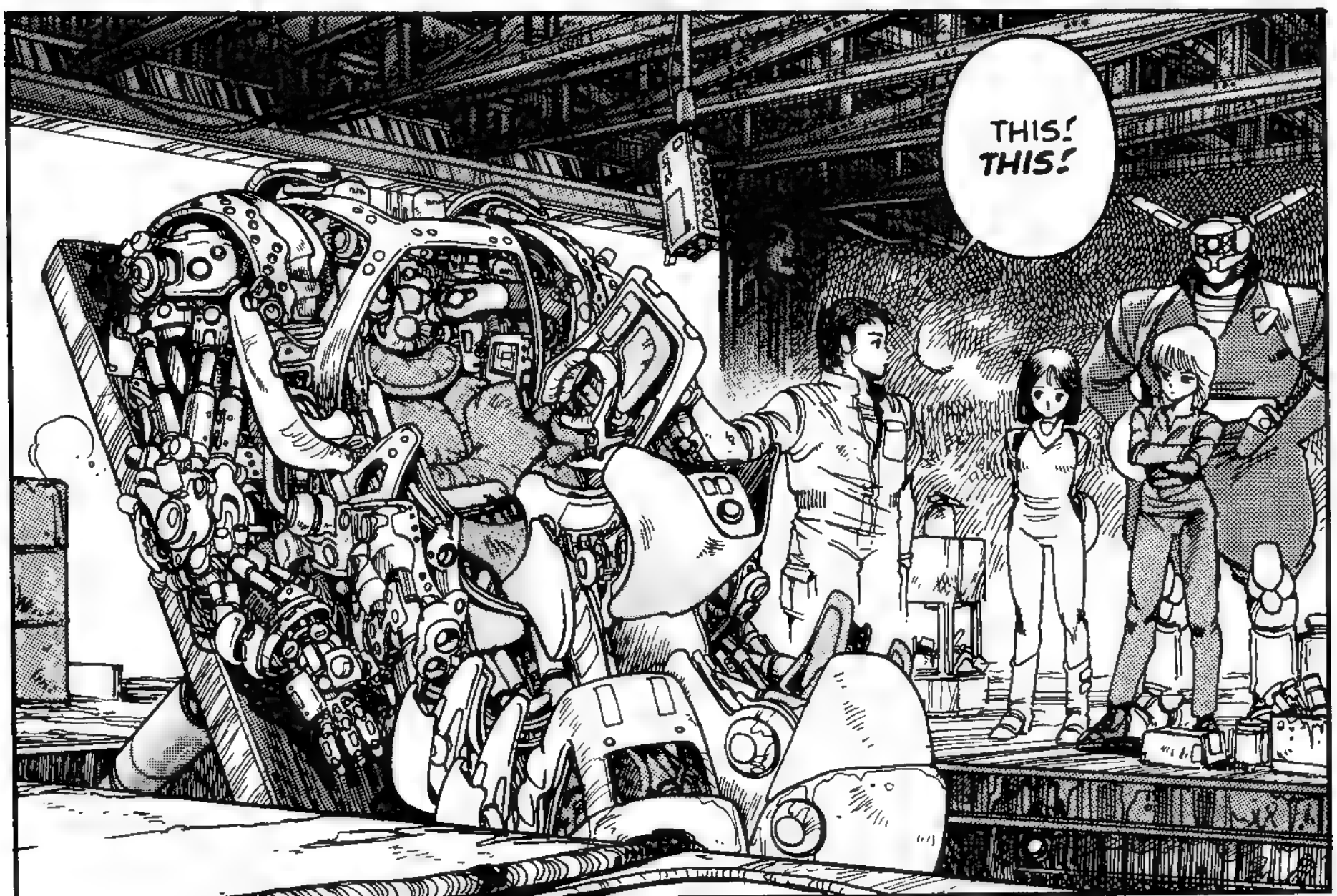
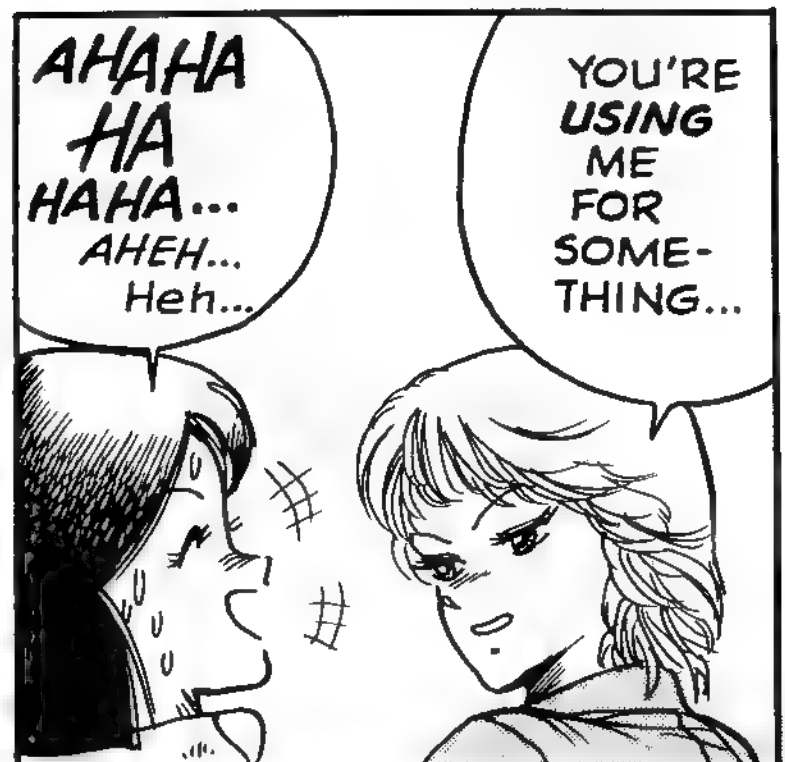
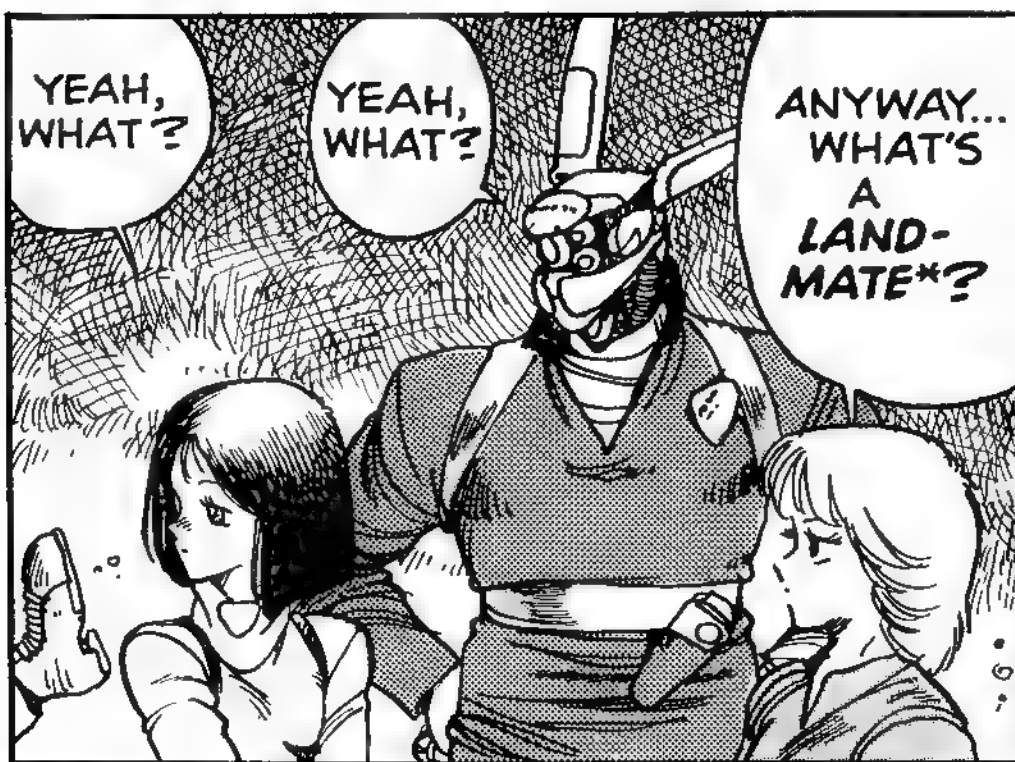
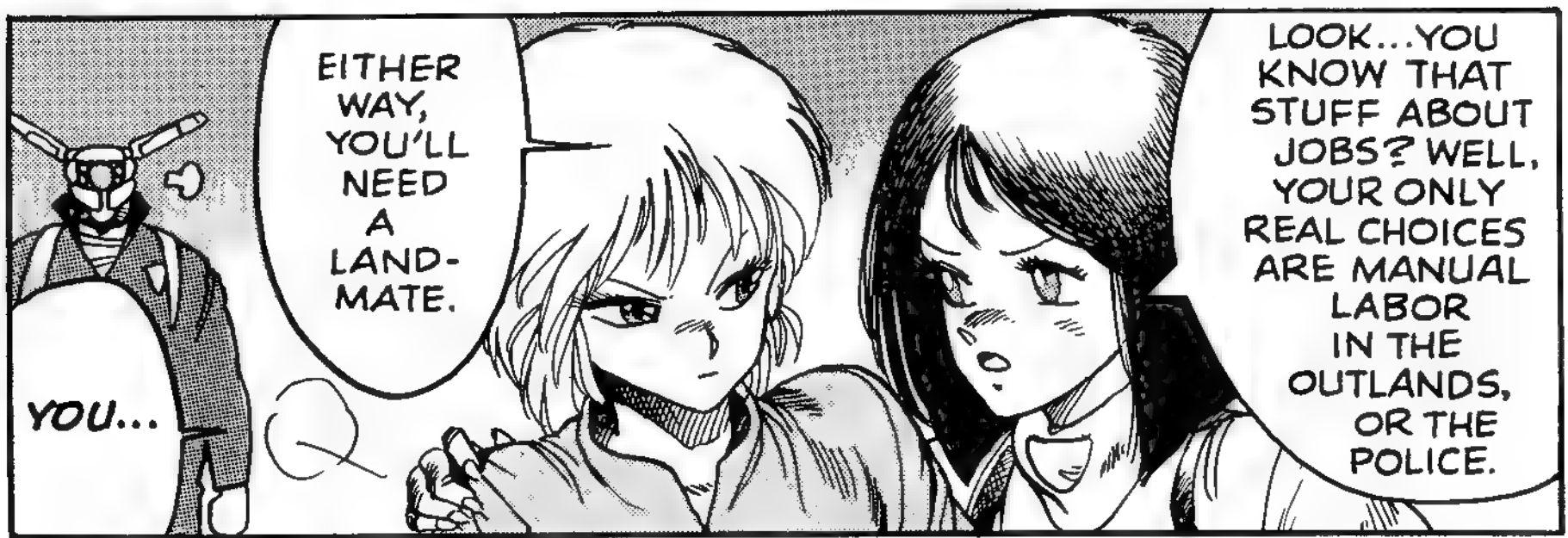
*FX KEEEEEE







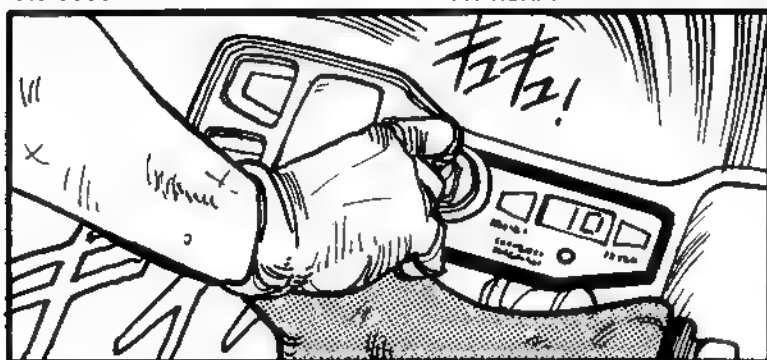
*R designation: Generally used to denote a movie age restriction, here it also includes a license system.



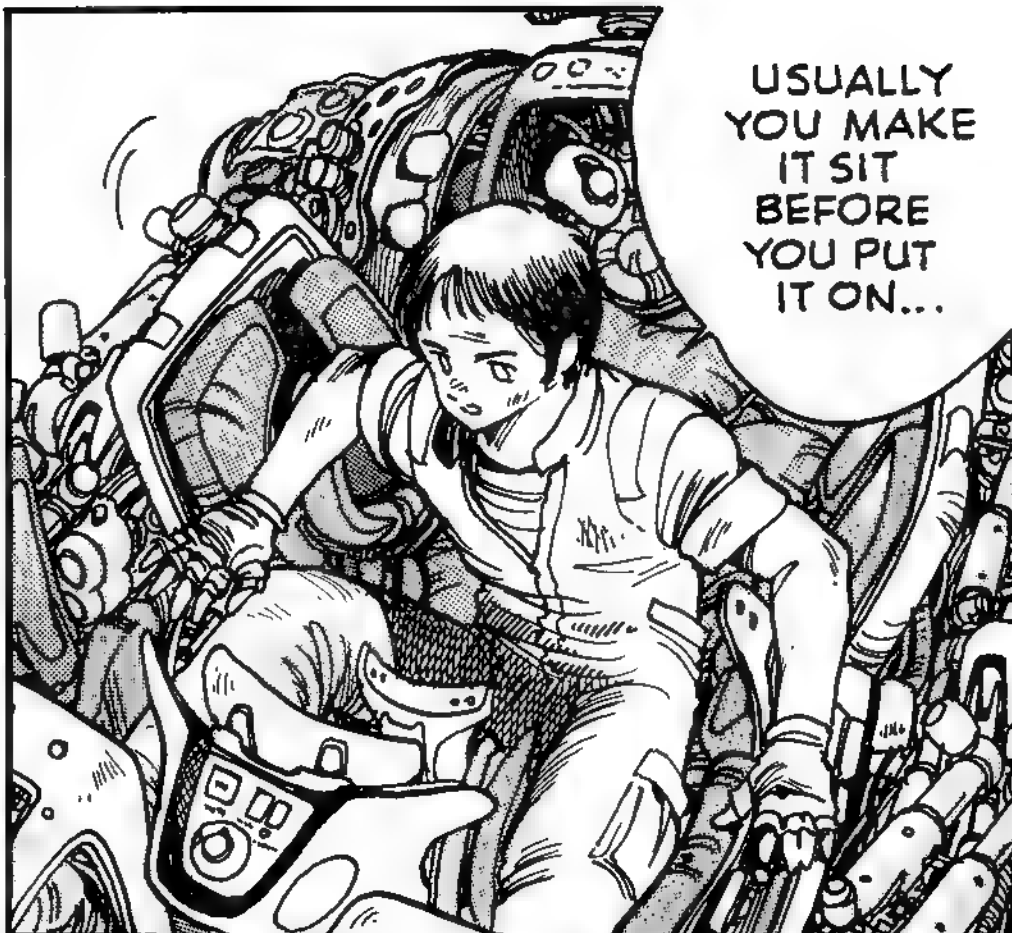
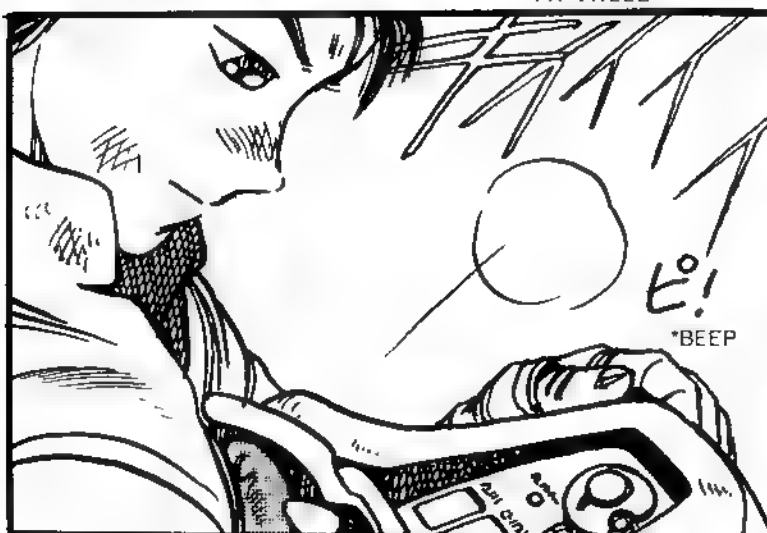
*landmate: the history of this kind of machine is surprisingly deep, and even now GE is working hard at development. A certain suit is famous for fighting a spider.

*FX VVV

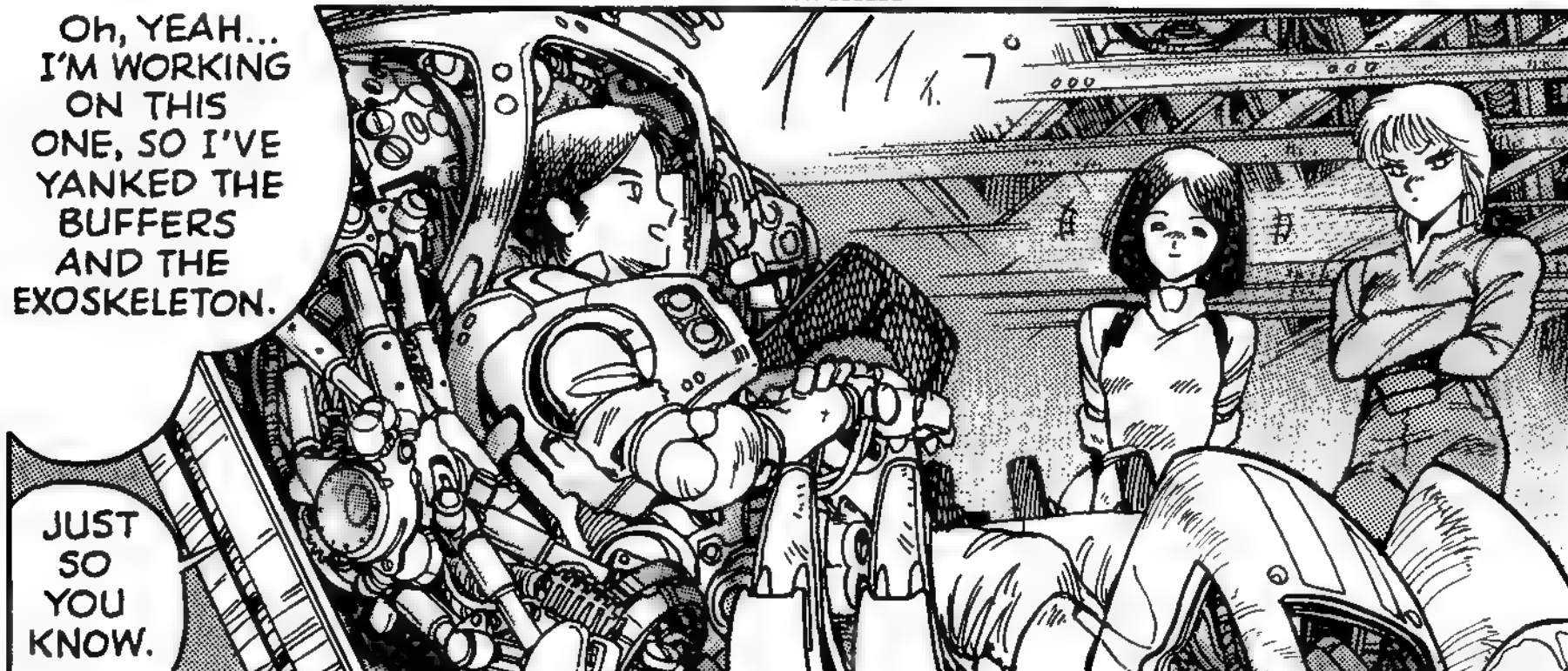
*FX KCHIK



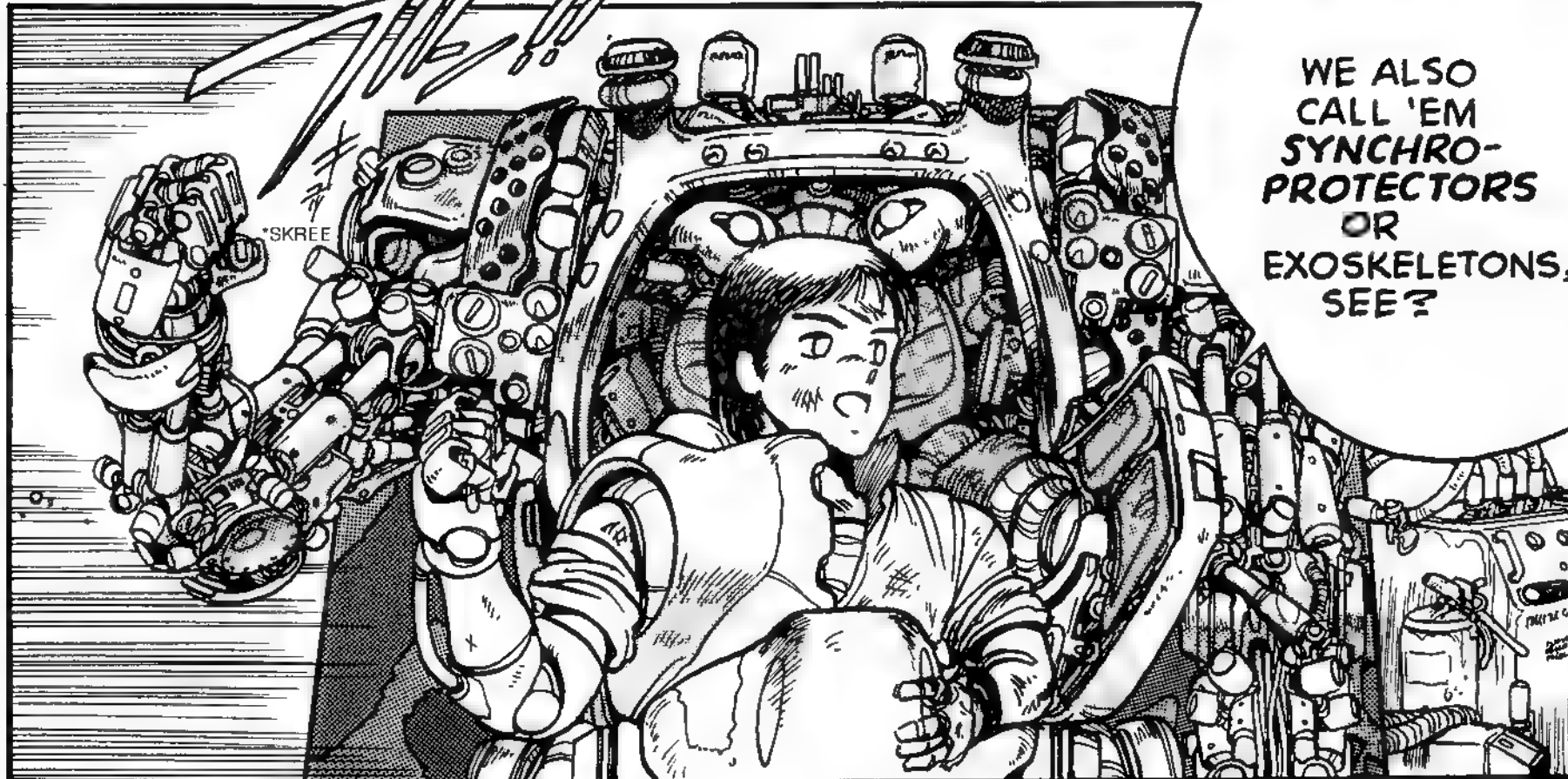
*FX WVEEE

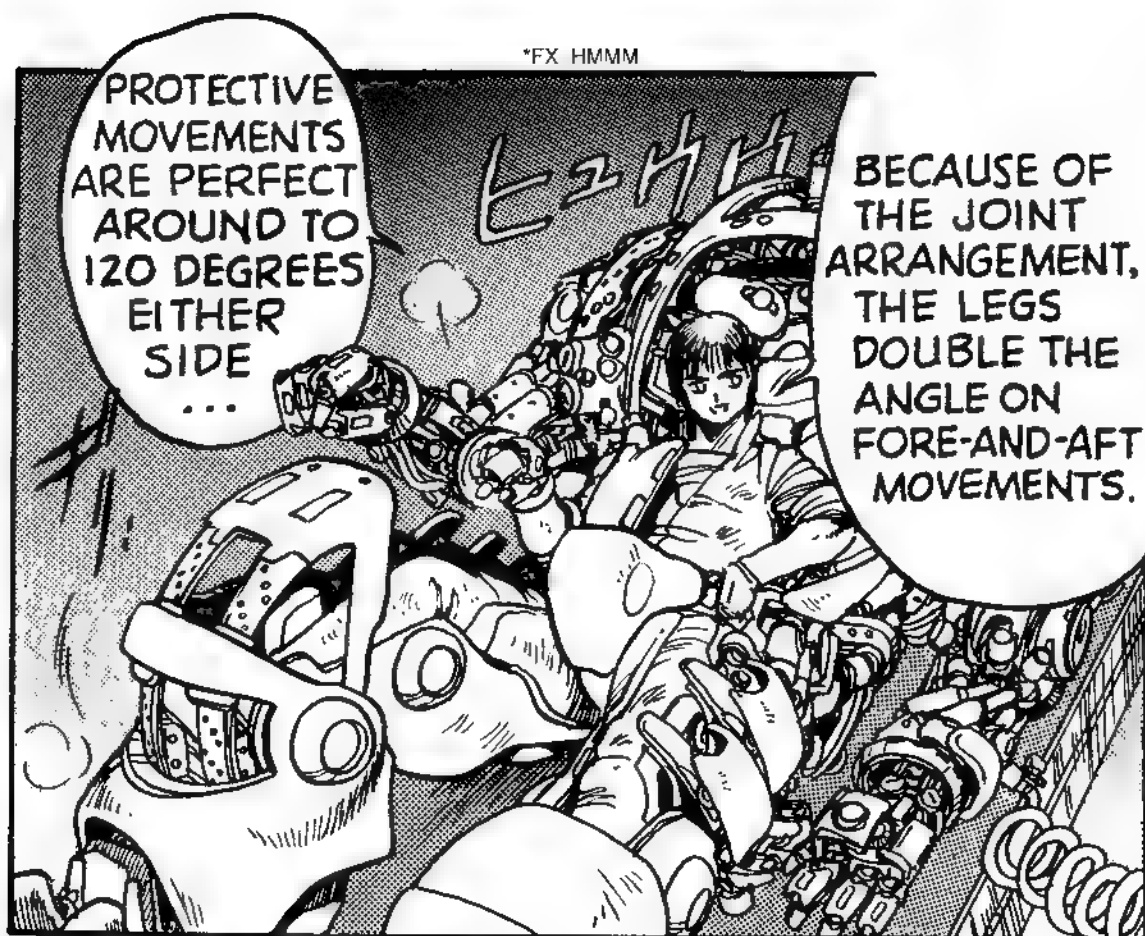


*FX EEEEE



*FX VRZZ





PROTECTIVE
MOVEMENTS
ARE PERFECT
AROUND TO
120 DEGREES
EITHER
SIDE
...

BECAUSE OF
THE JOINT
ARRANGEMENT,
THE LEGS
DOUBLE THE
ANGLE ON
FORE-AND-AFT
MOVEMENTS.



GOT
IT!

SO BASICALLY,
YOU WALK
AROUND
WEARING A
MACHINE
THAT COPIES
EVERY
MOVE YOU
MAKE.



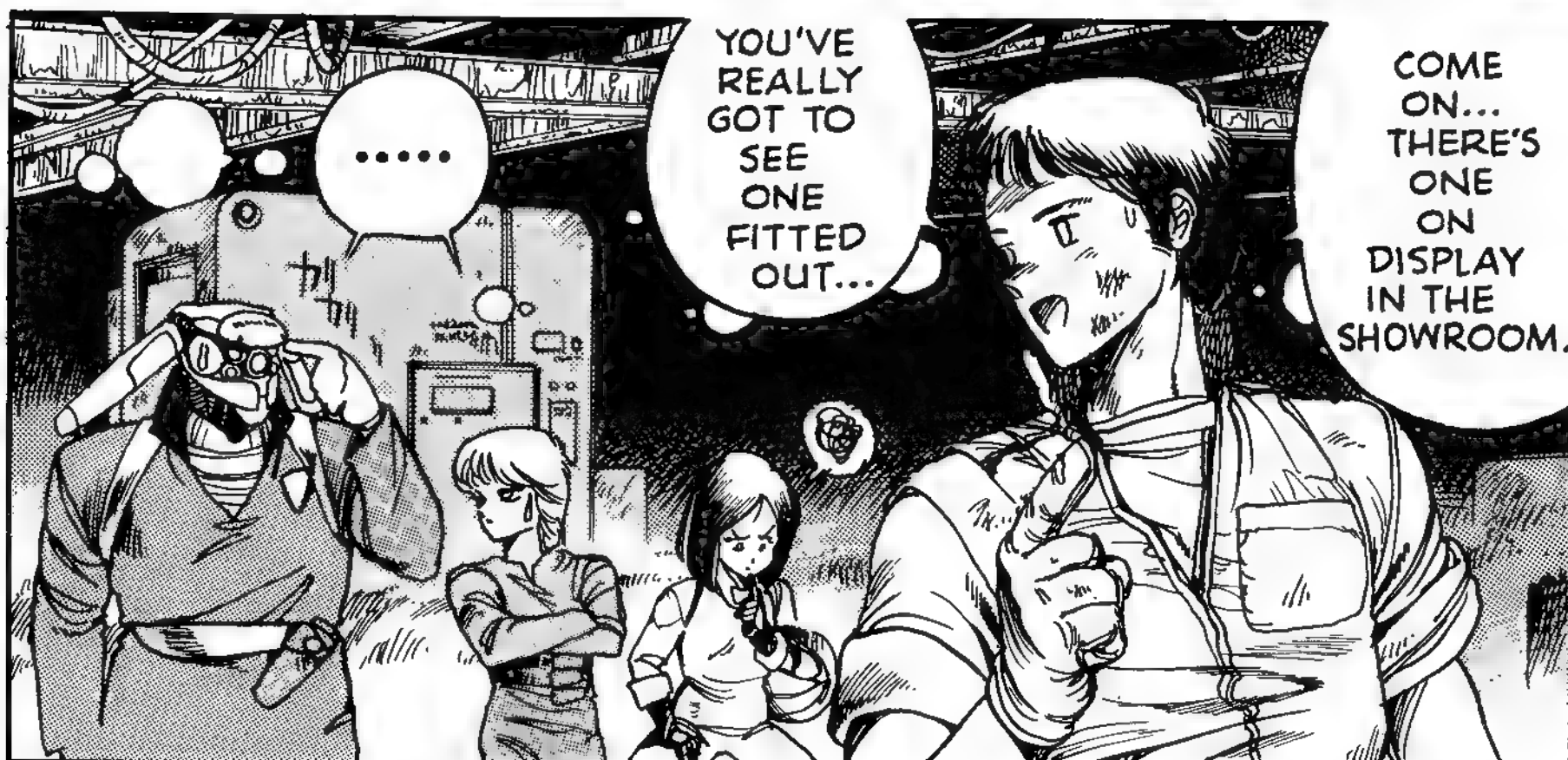
WE'RE FLAT
BROKE SO
DON'T
EVEN
THINK
ABOUT
IT!

Hmm. MAYBE
LIGHT WEIGHT
WITH HIGH
TENSILE
STRENGTH
IS THE
ANSWER...

**WHAT
?!
I DO
NOT!**

SINCE THE
WHOLE BODY'S
ARMORED,
EVEN **HITOMI**
COMES OUT
BOWLEGGED...
HEH...

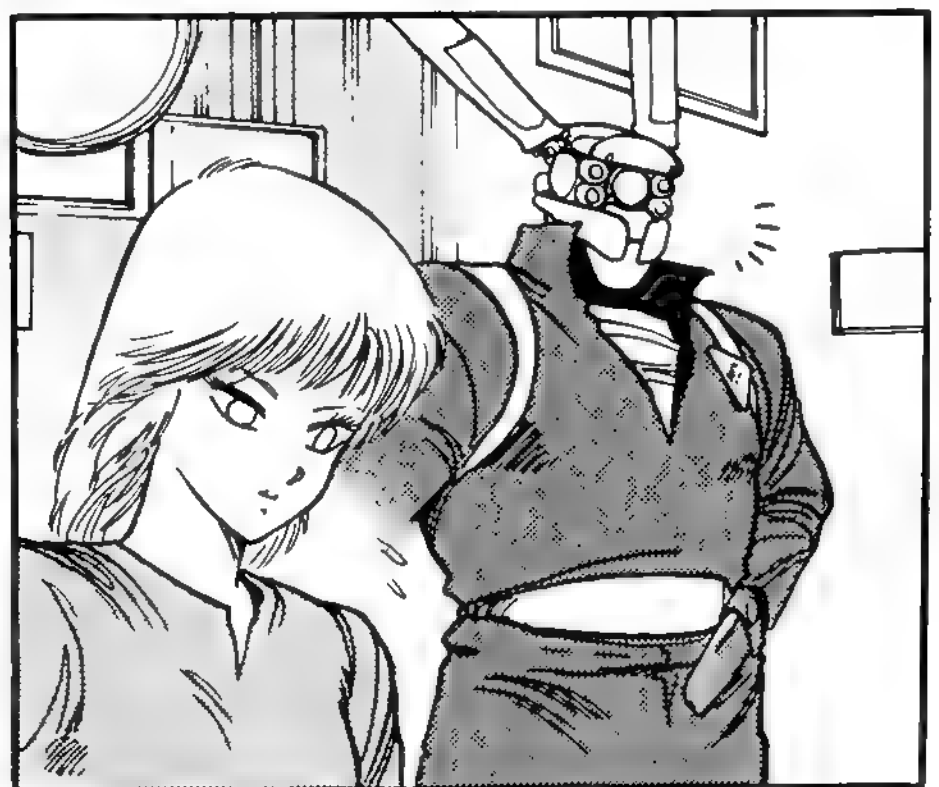
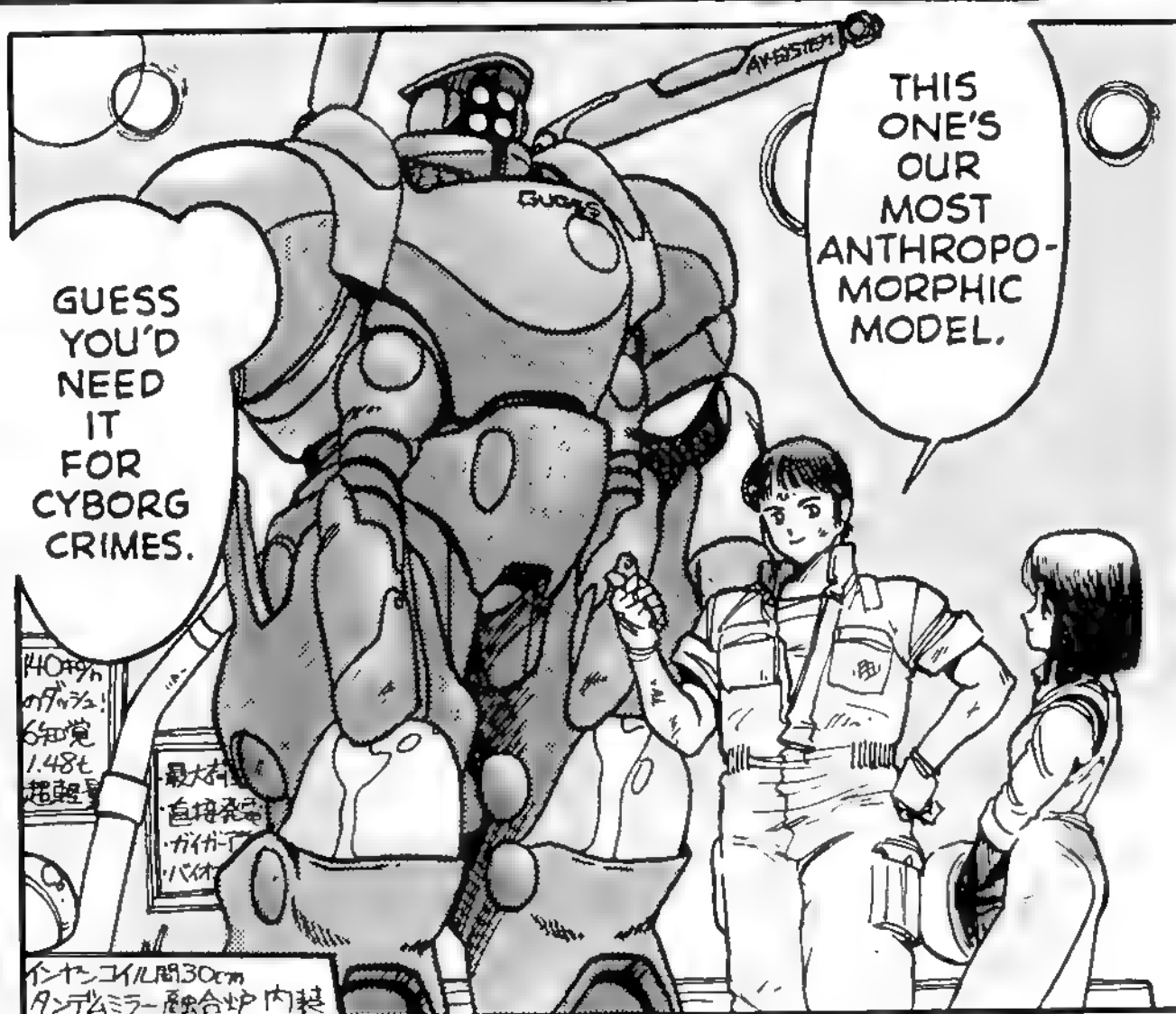
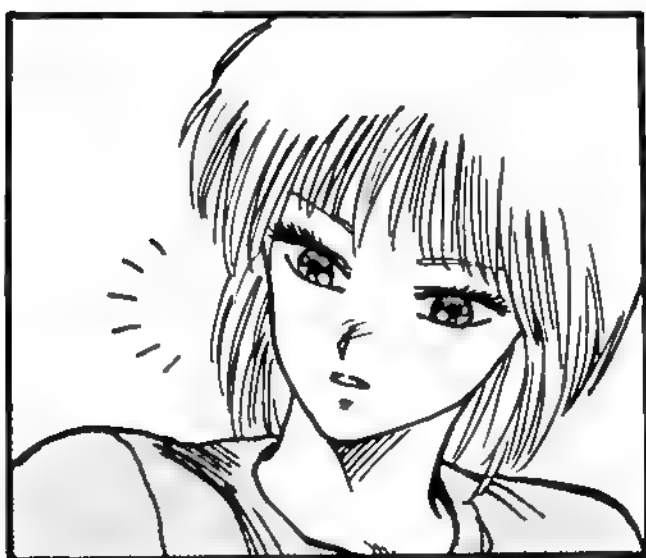
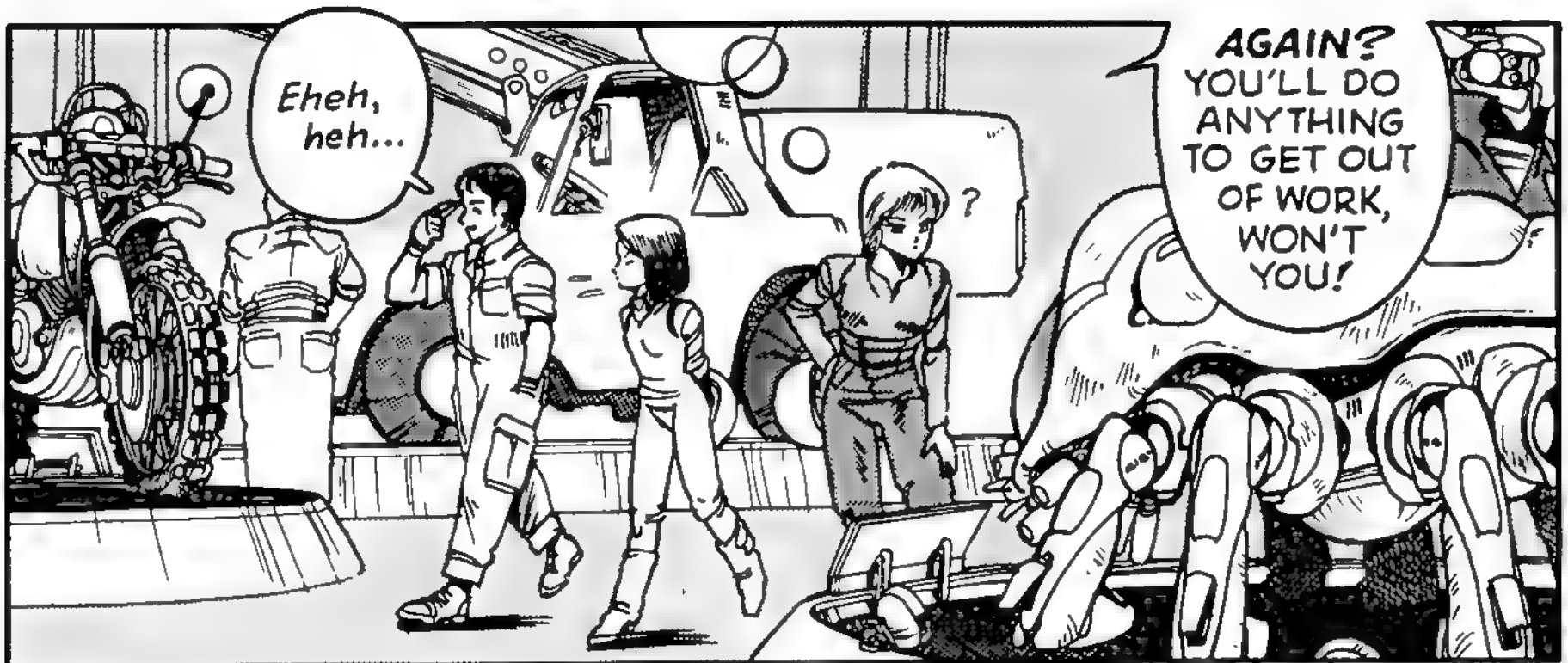
THOUGH
ACTUALLY
YOU DON'T
NEED
ARMOR
BACK THERE
IF YOU
LEARN TO
REACT
RIGHT.

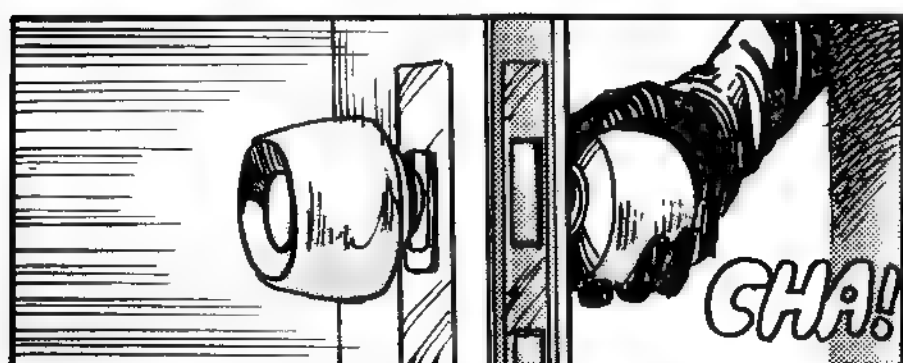
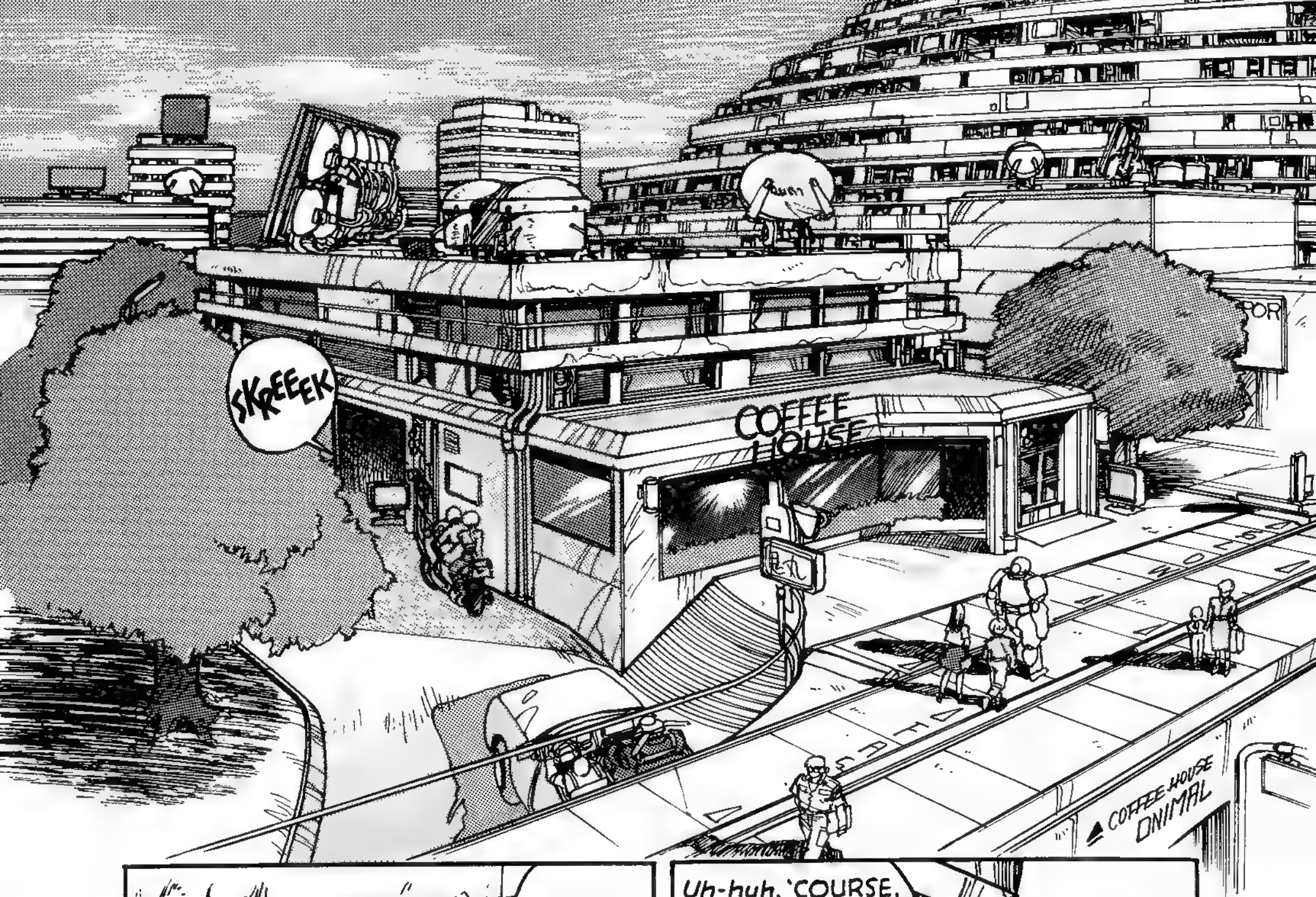


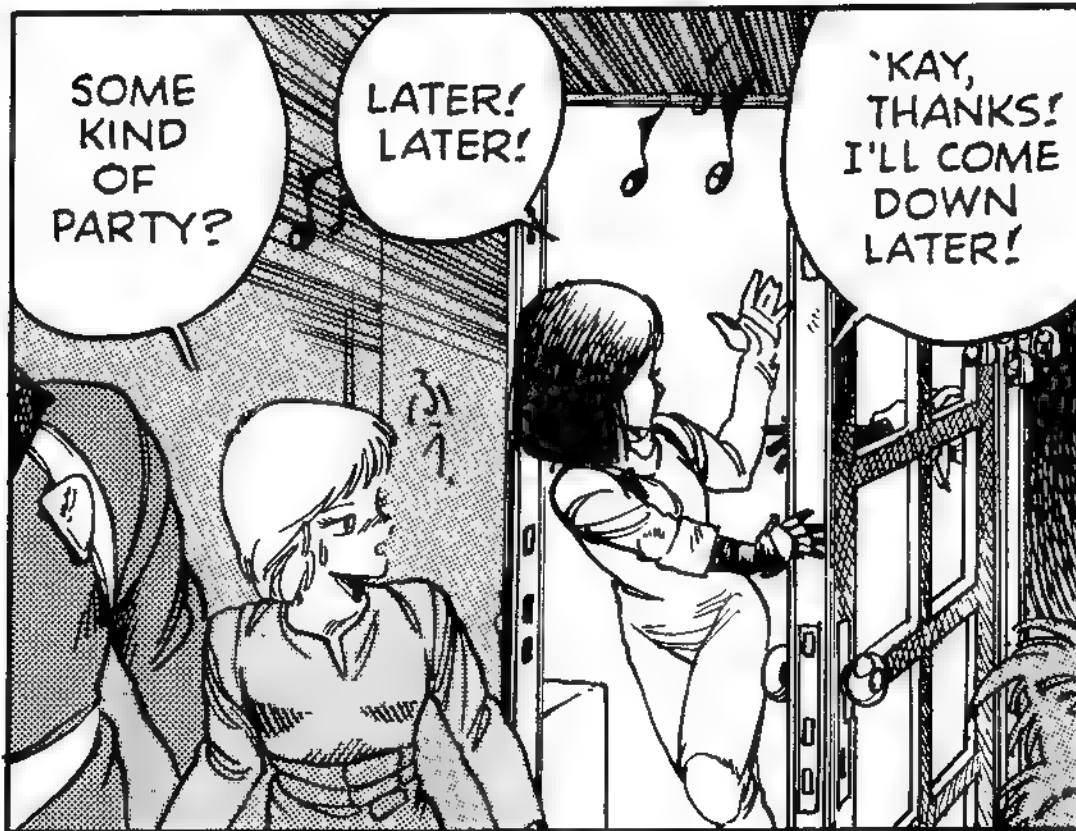
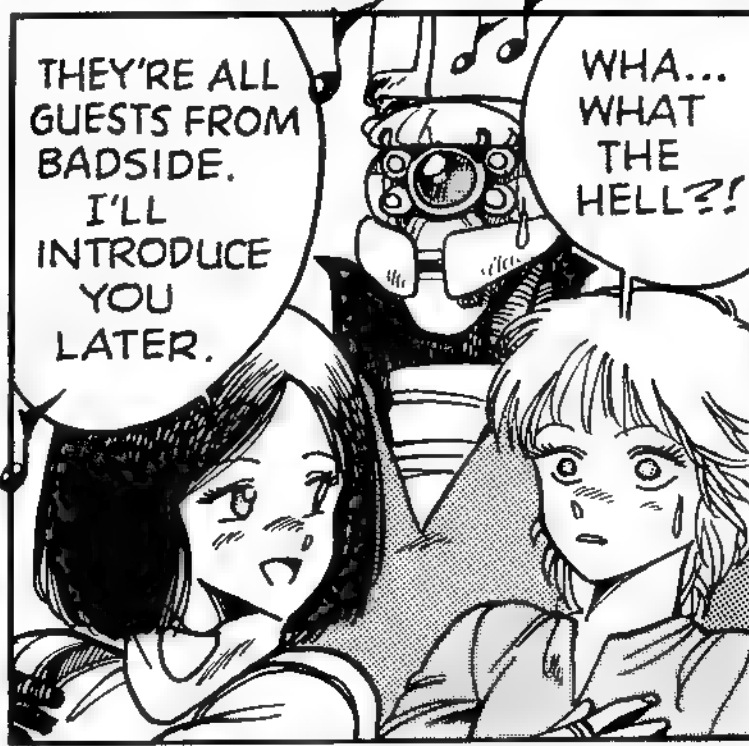
.....

YOU'VE
REALLY
GOT TO
SEE
ONE
FITTED
OUT...

COME
ON...
THERE'S
ONE
ON
DISPLAY
IN THE
SHOWROOM.

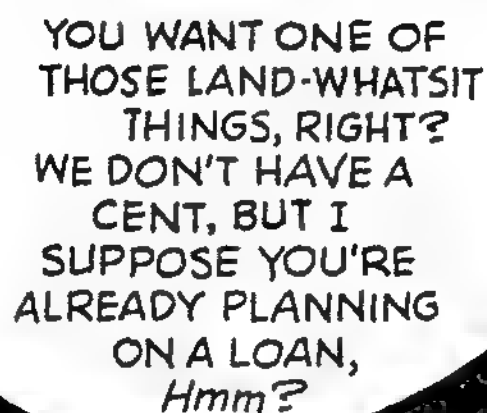
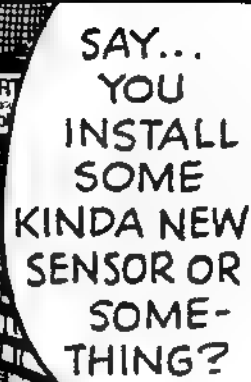
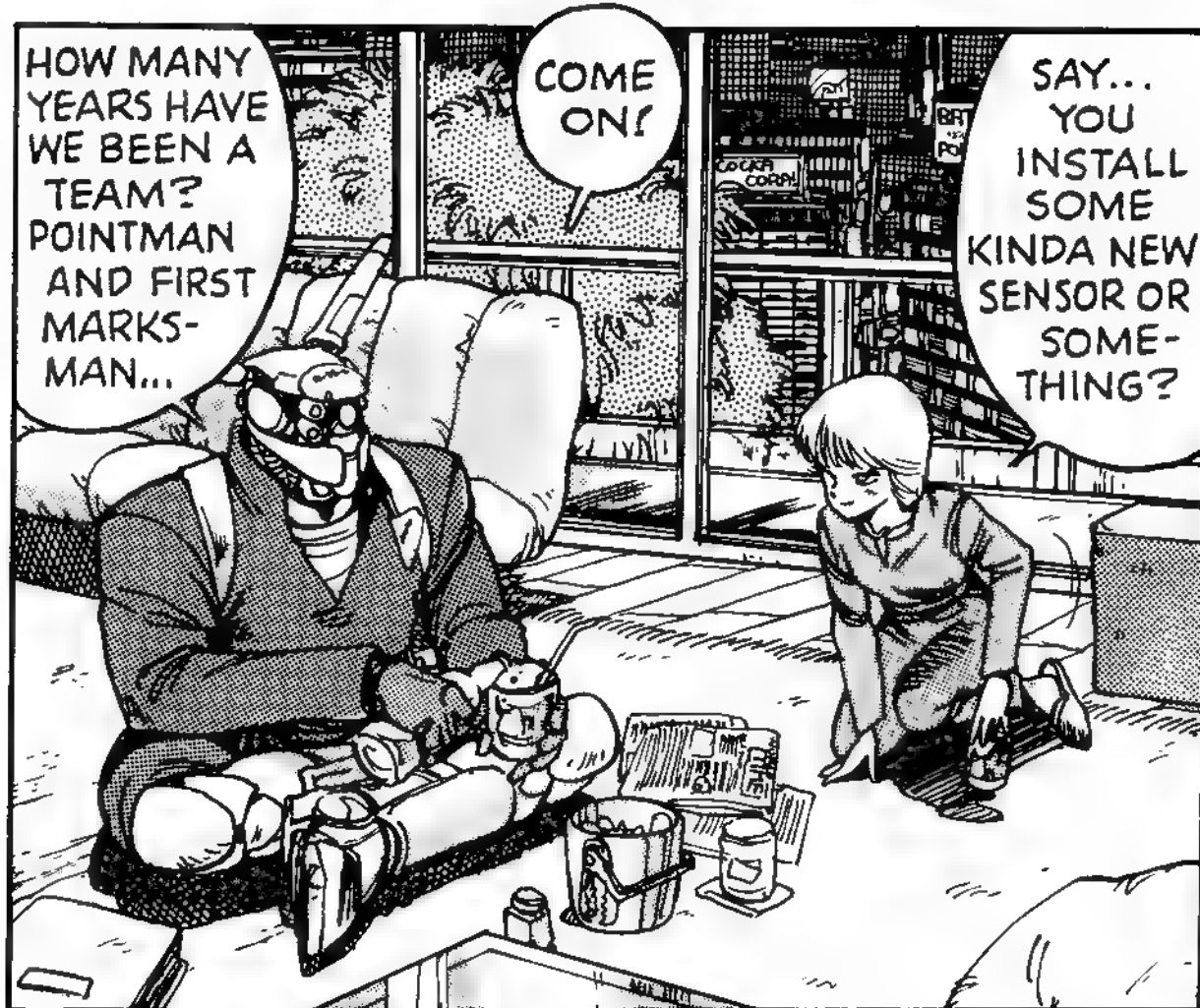
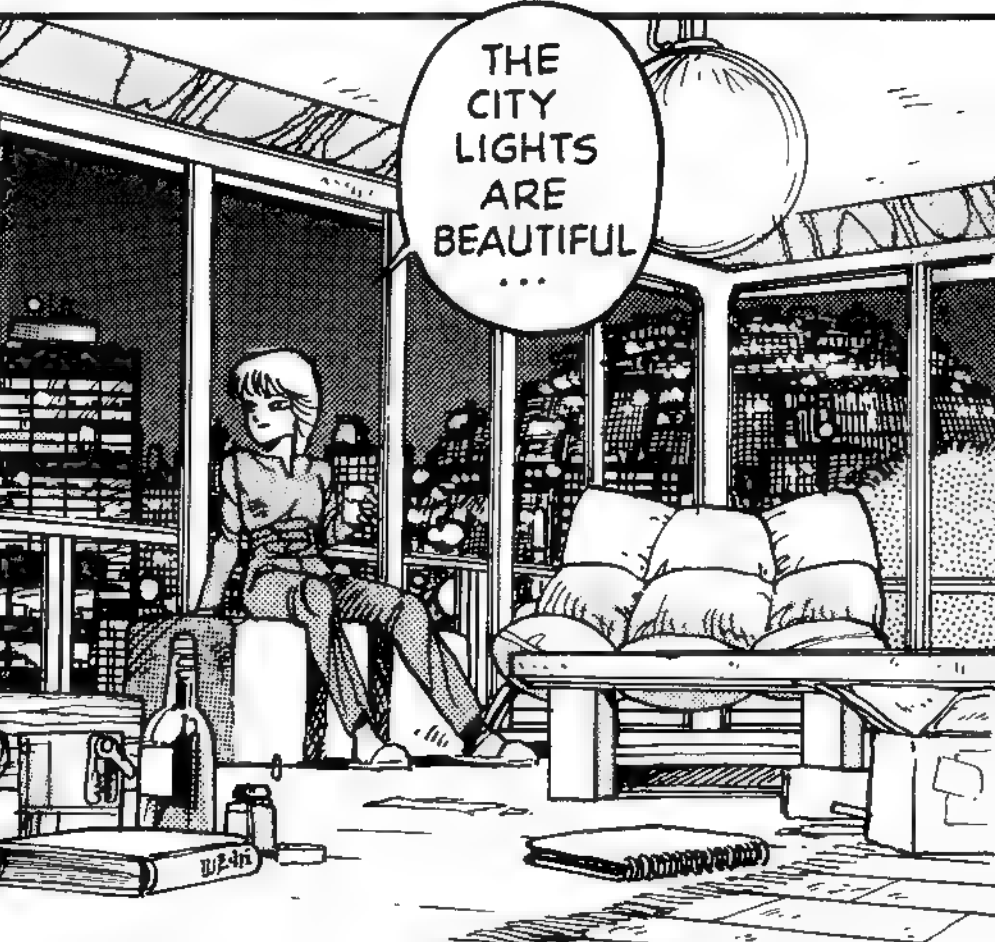
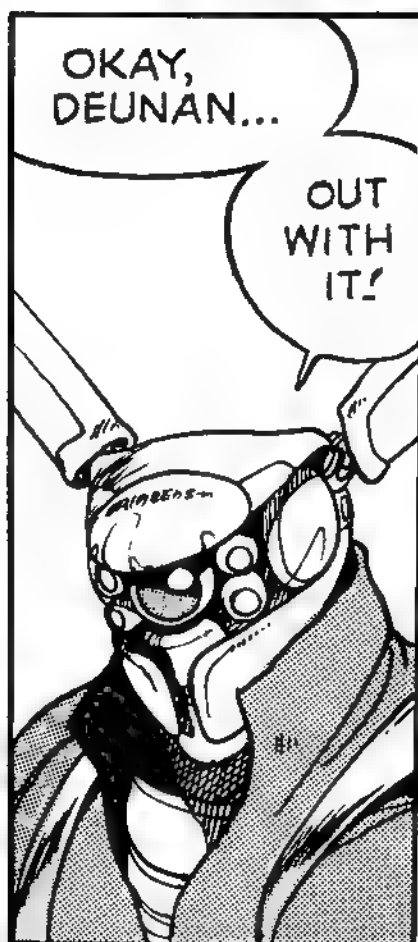
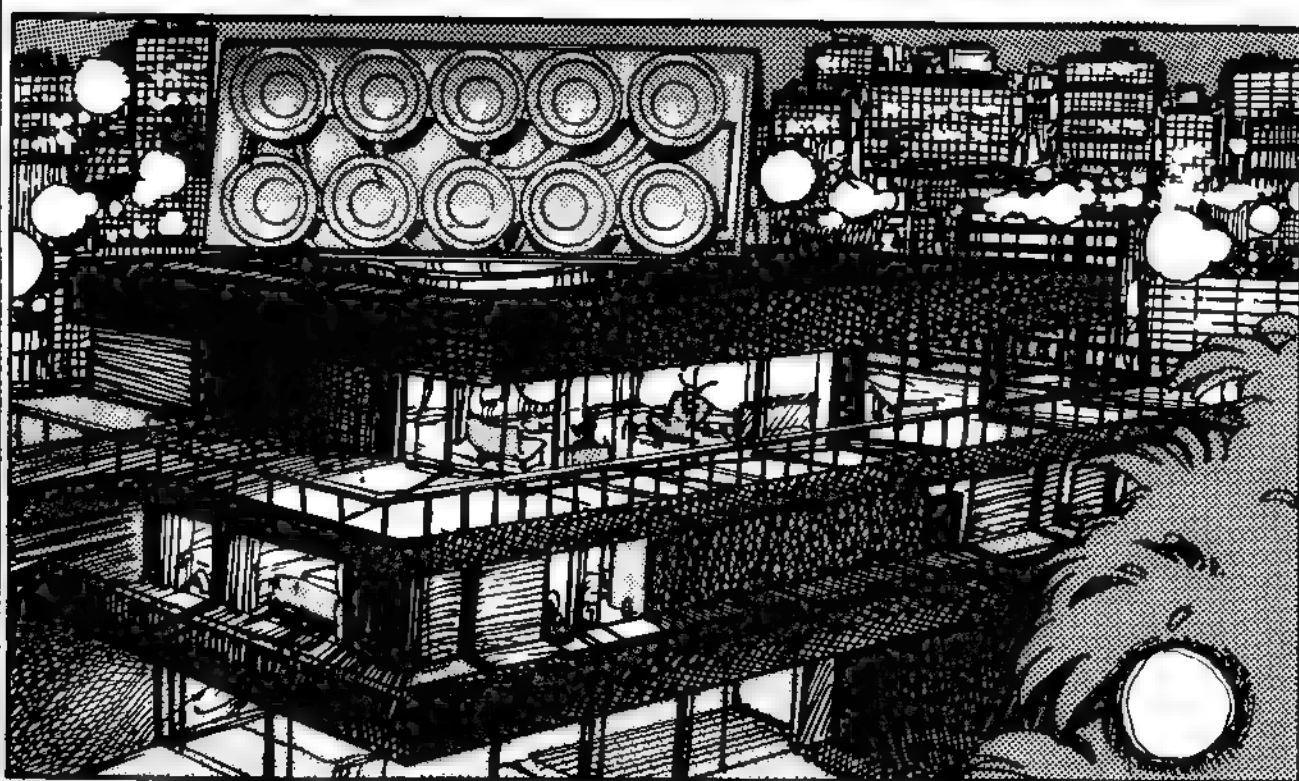


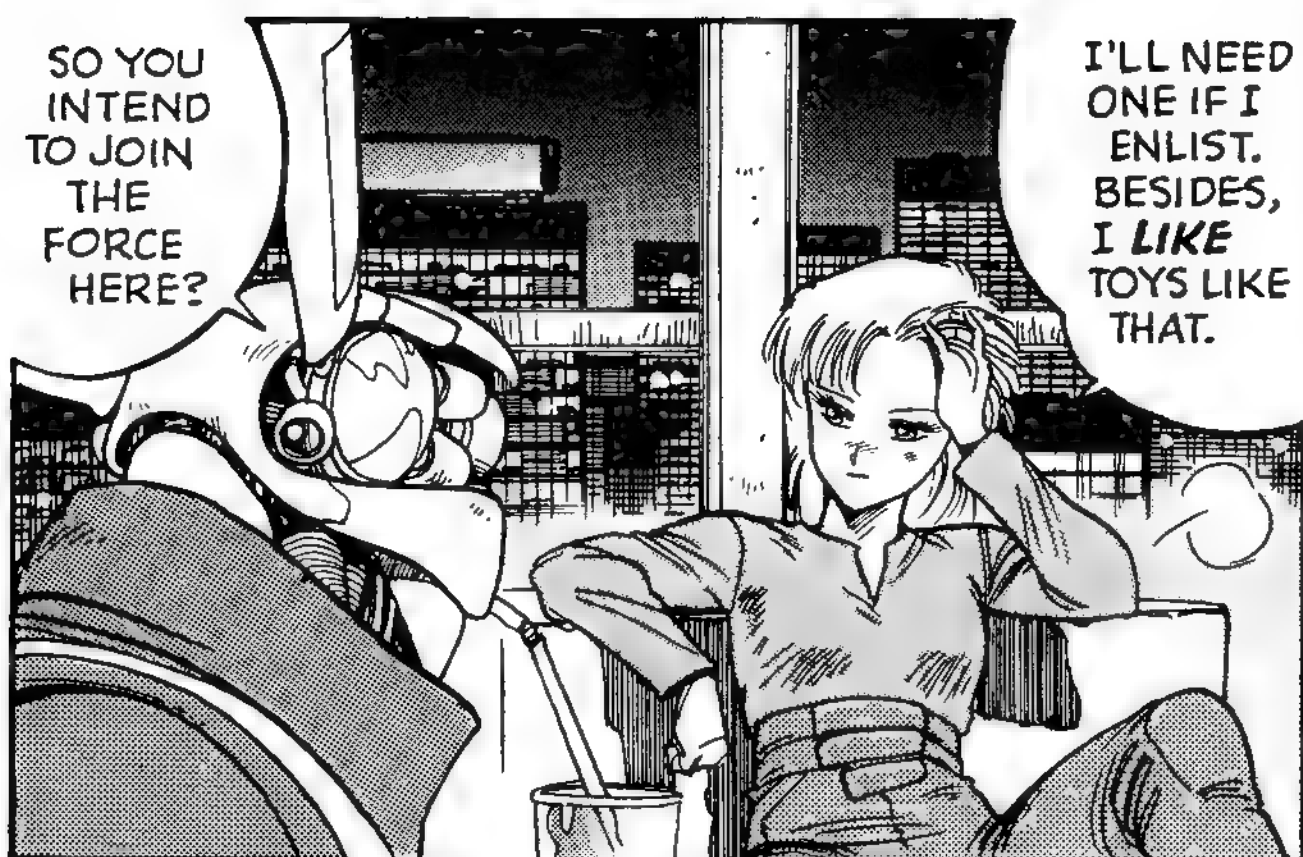




*FX HAH A

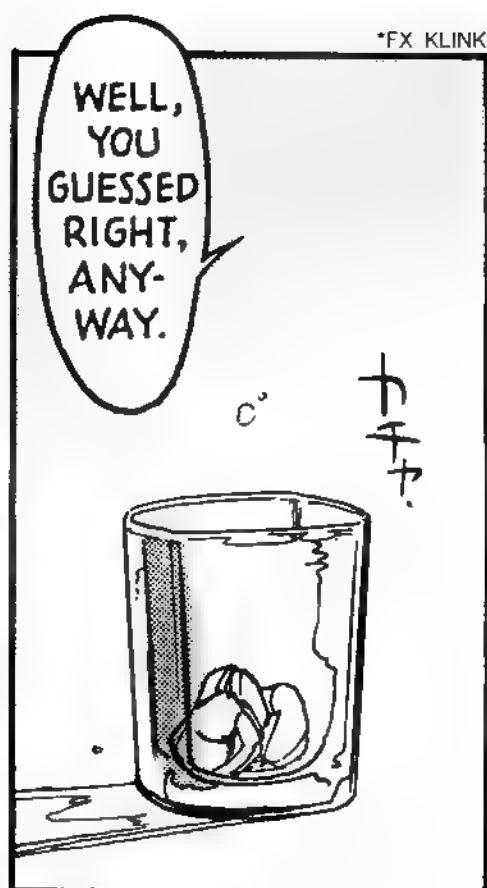
*FX WHEW





SO YOU INTEND TO JOIN THE FORCE HERE?

I'LL NEED ONE IF I ENLIST. BESIDES, I *LIKE* TOYS LIKE THAT.

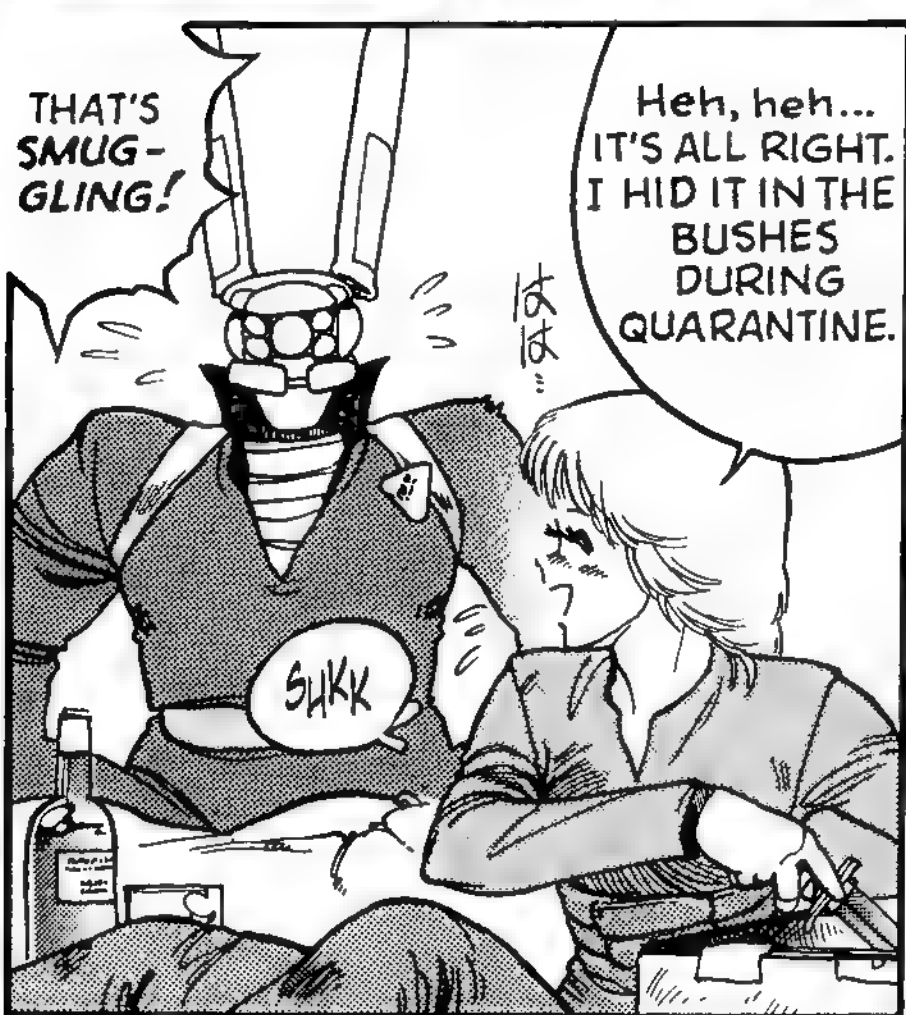


WELL, YOU GUESSED RIGHT, ANYWAY.



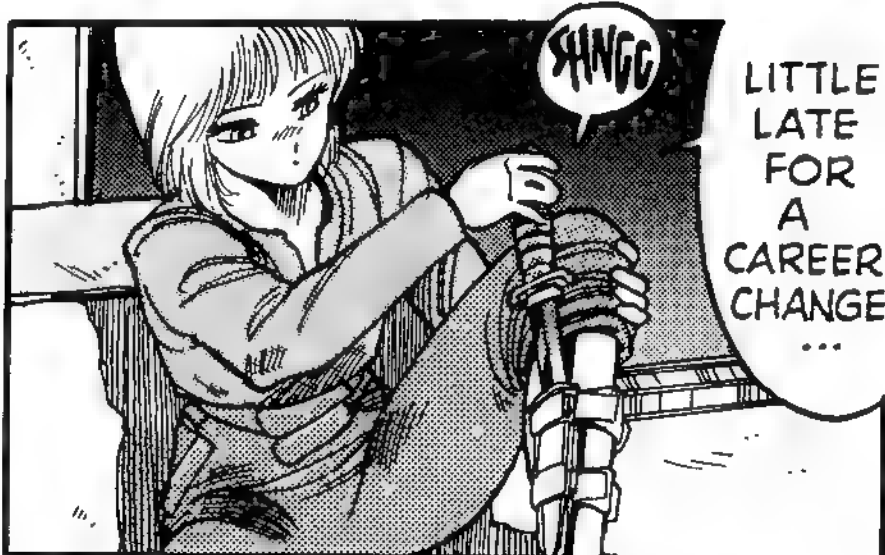
AND ANYWAY, WHAT *OTHER* WORK COULD I DO?

IF WE WANT TO EAT, WITHOUT ENDING UP GRUBBING IN THE DIRT ON SOME FARM, WE BETTER FIND SOMETHING WE CAN DO WELL...

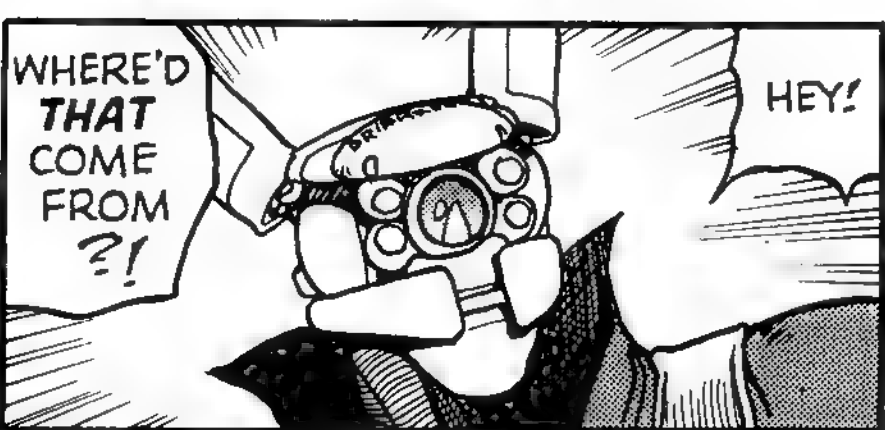


THAT'S SMUG-GLING!

Heh, heh... IT'S ALL RIGHT. I HID IT IN THE BUSHES DURING QUARANTINE.

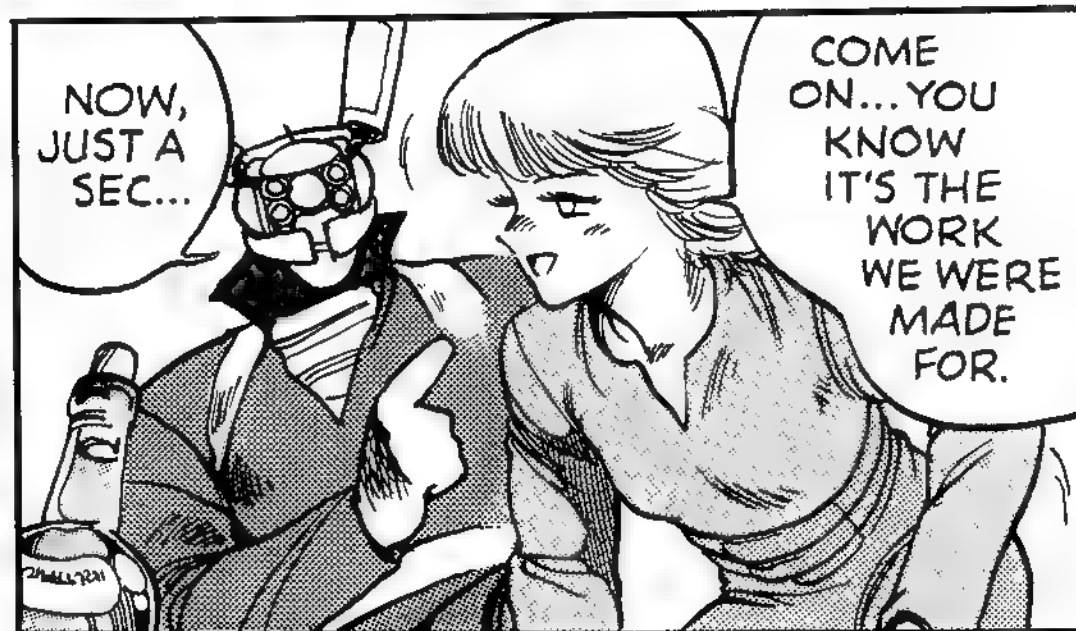
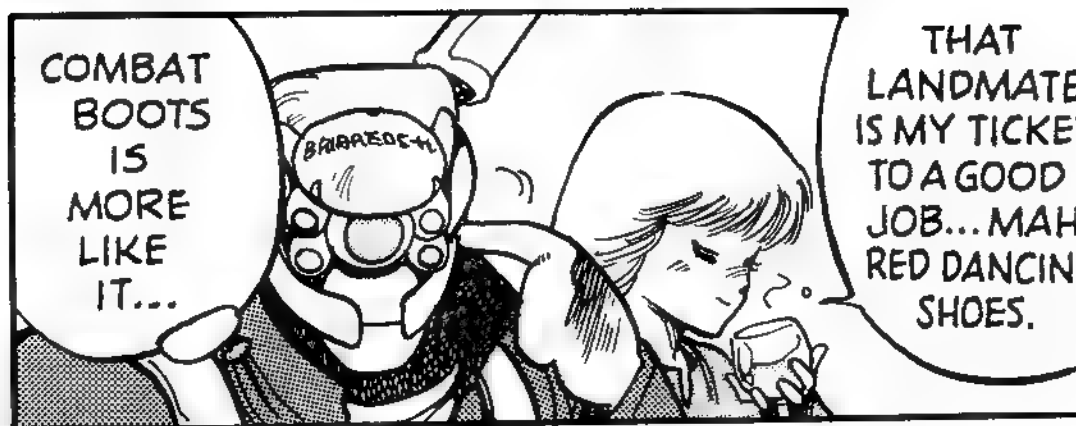
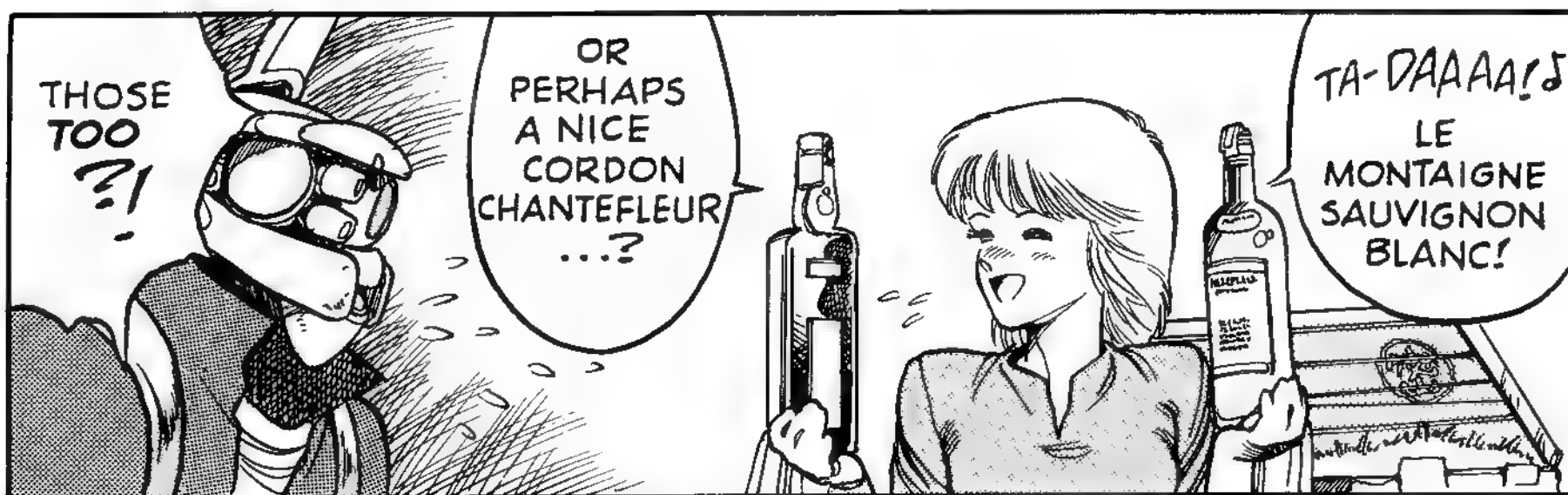


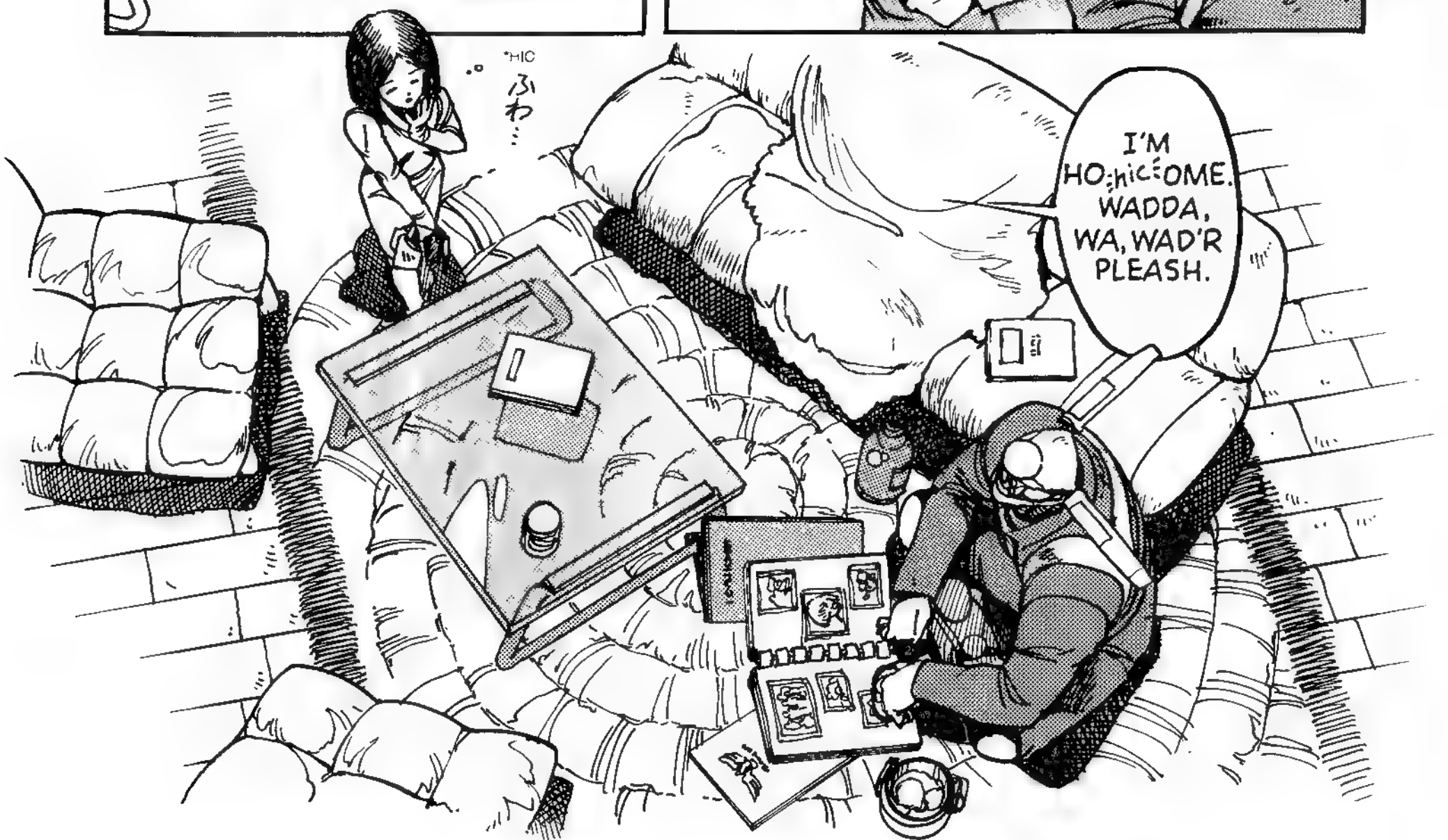
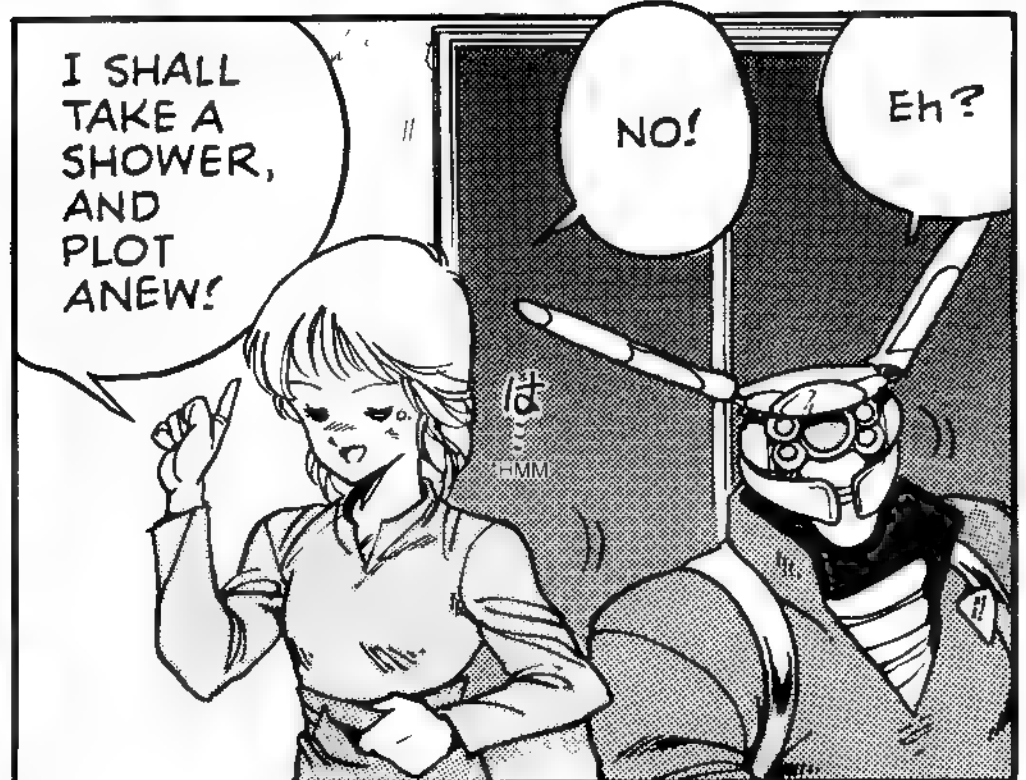
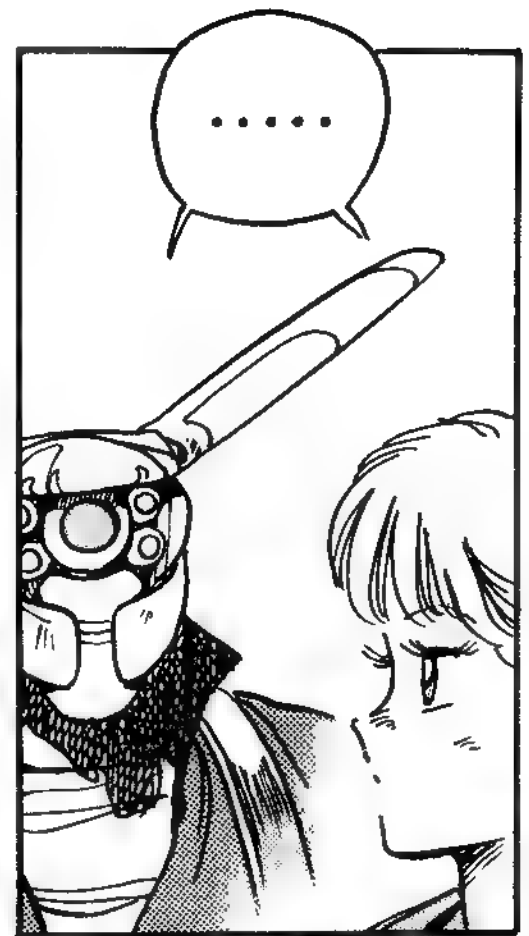
LITTLE LATE FOR A CAREER CHANGE ...

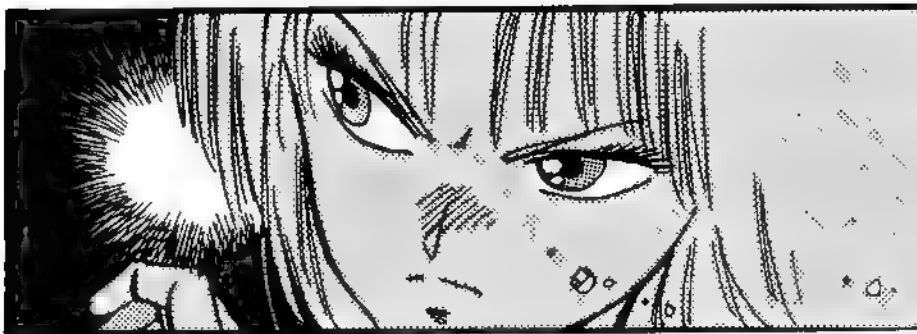
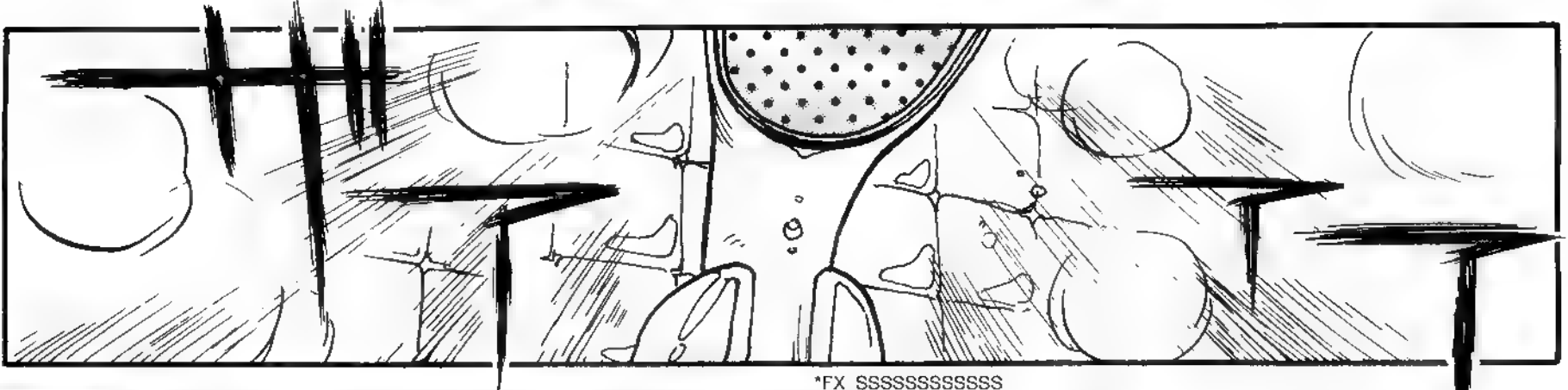
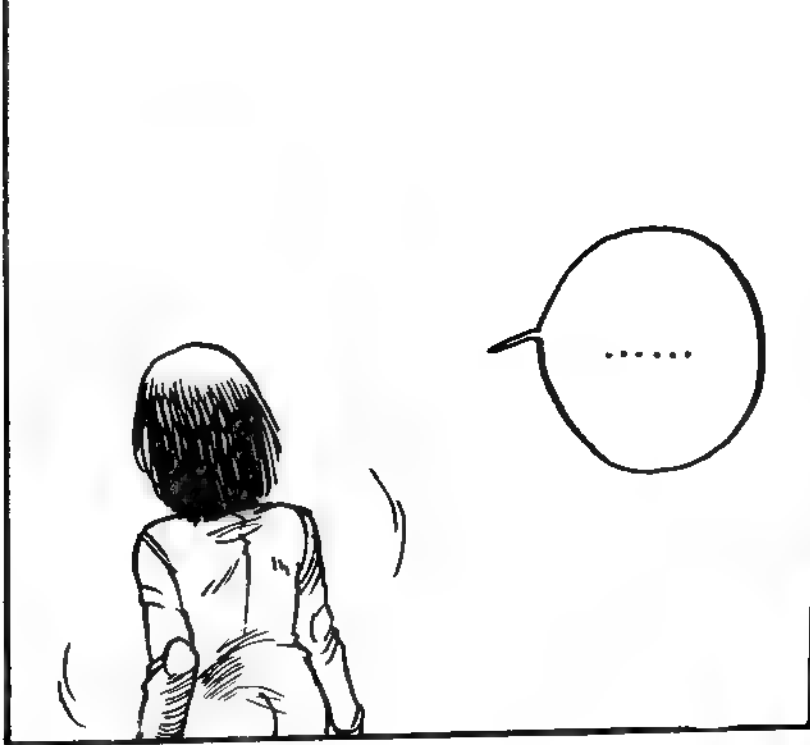


WHERE'D *THAT* COME FROM ?!

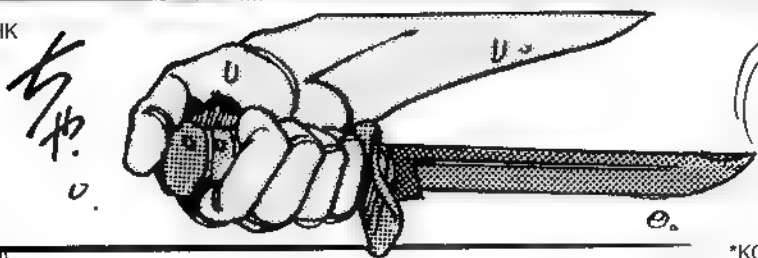
HEY!





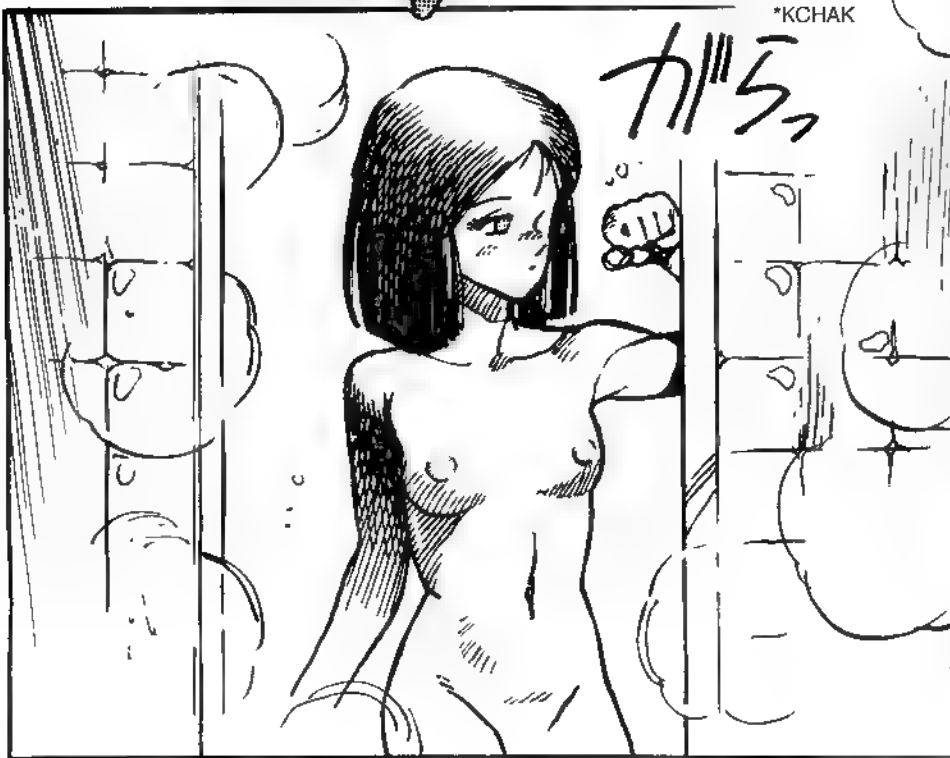


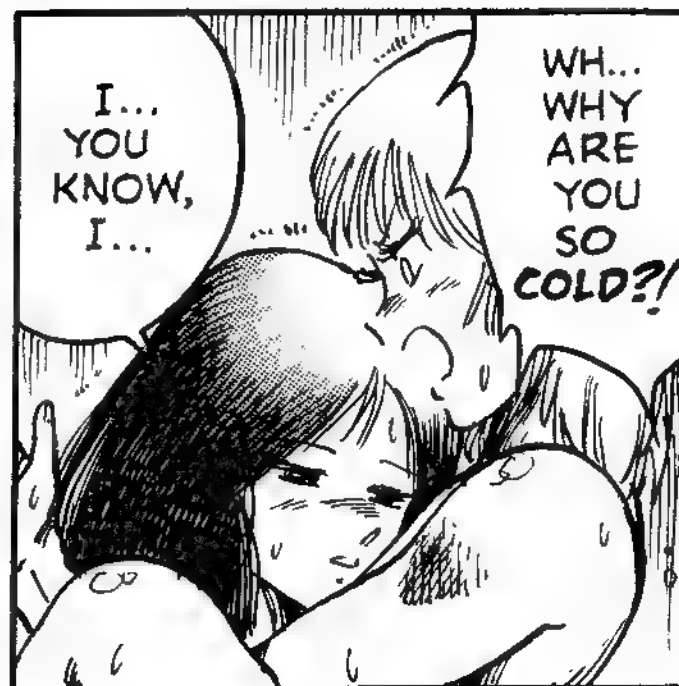
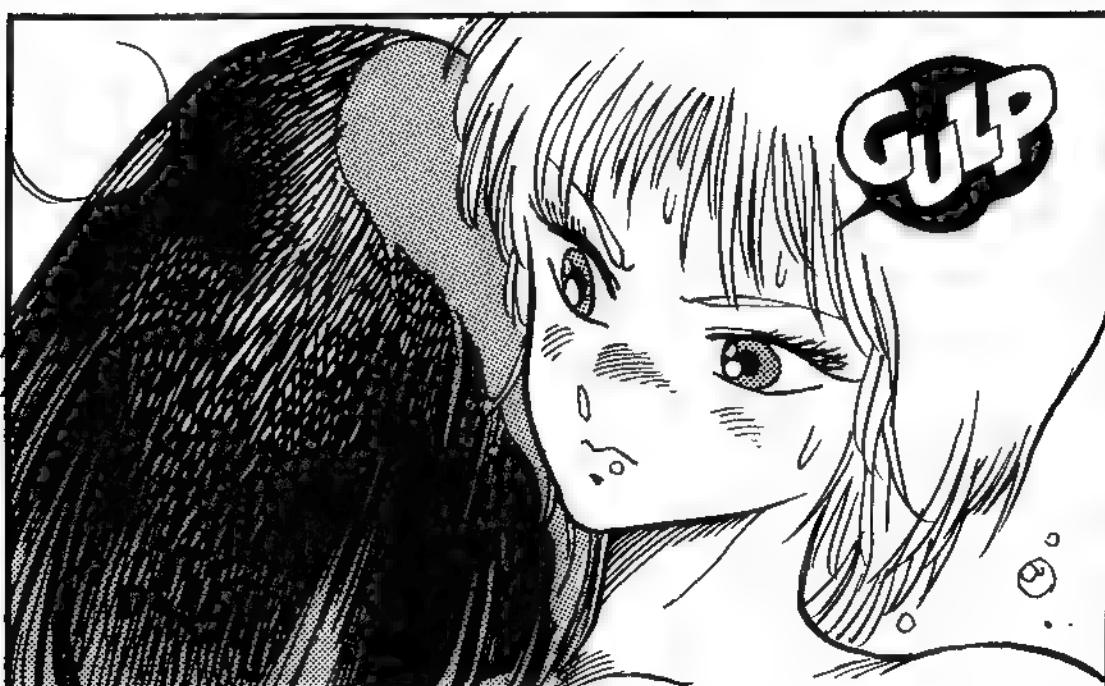
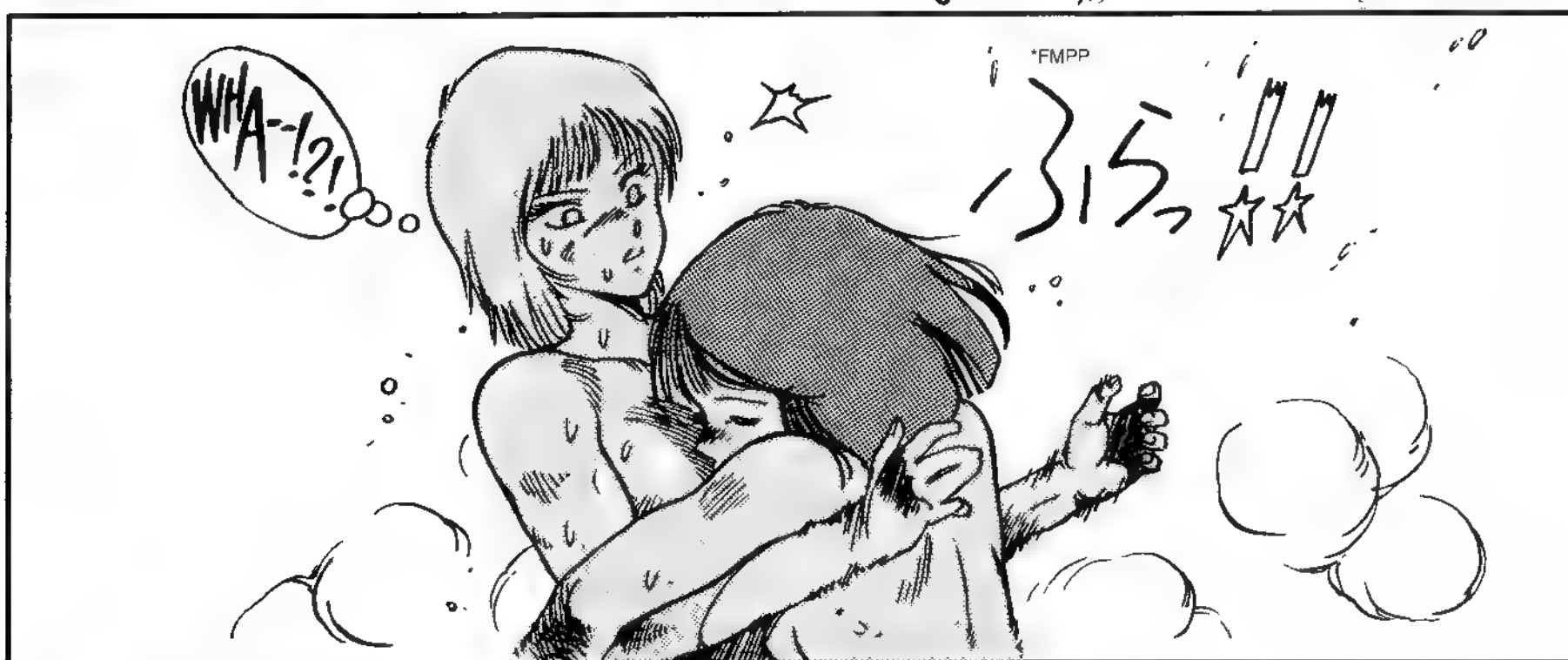
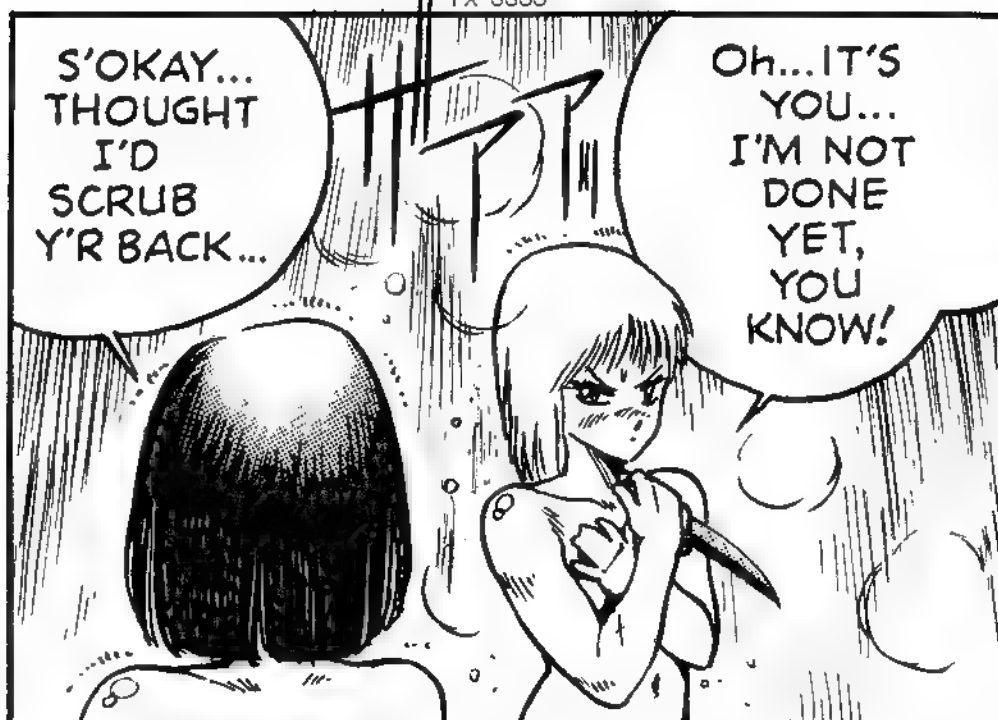
*CHK



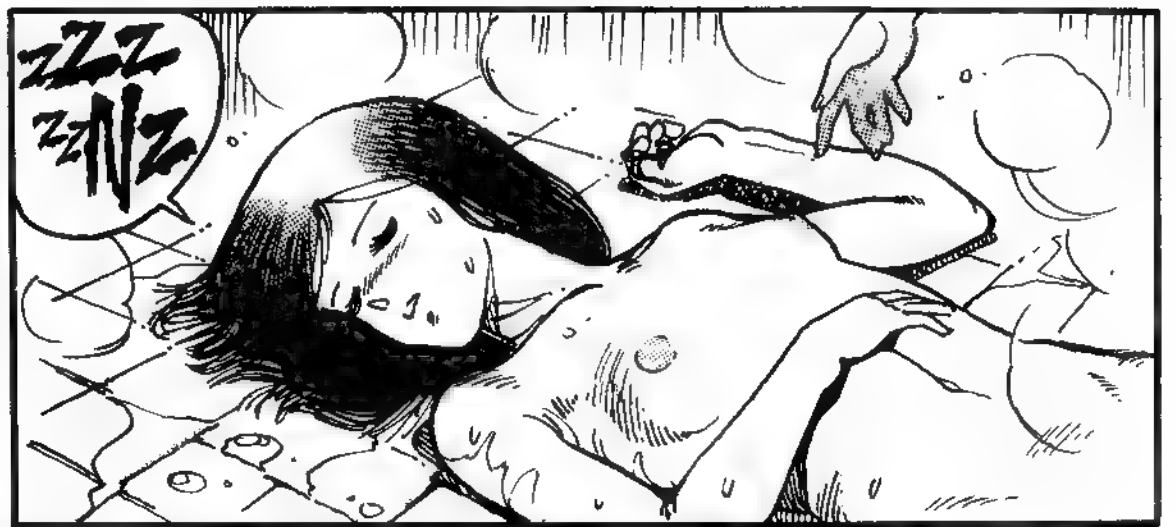
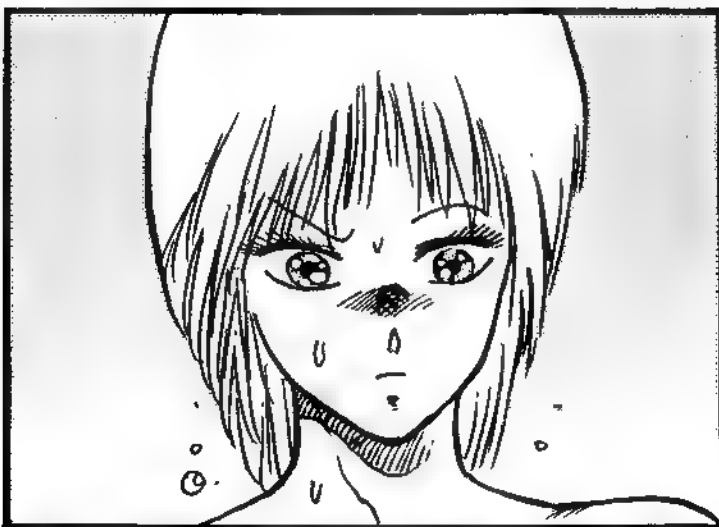
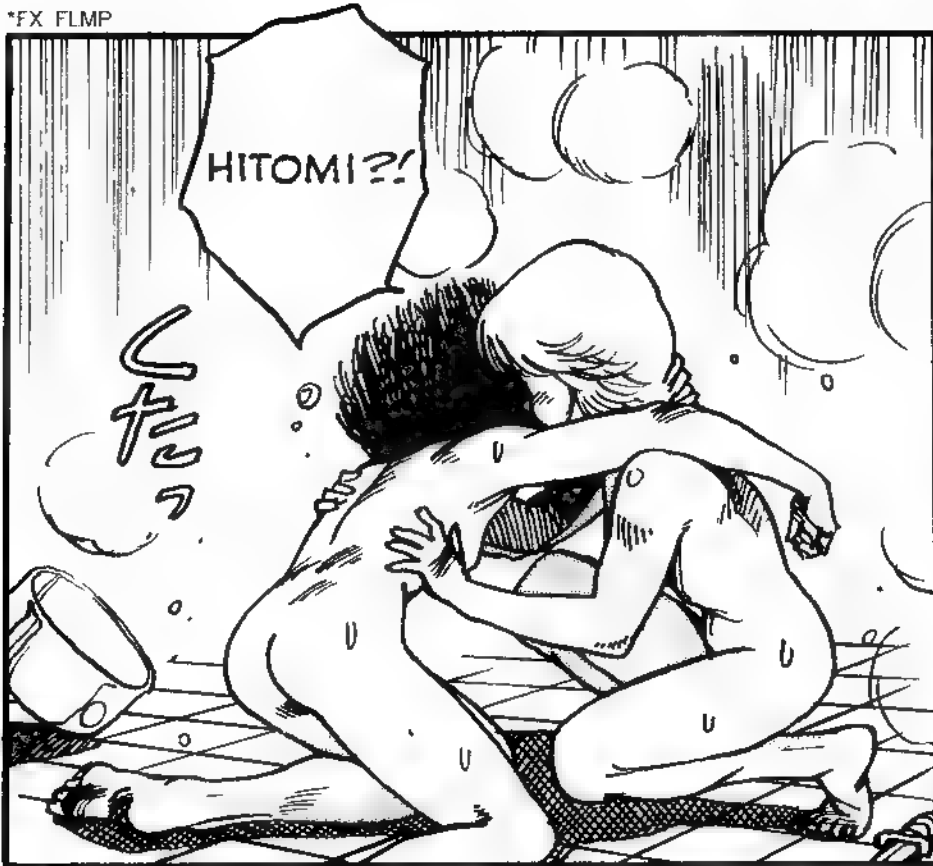
*KCHAK

カッ

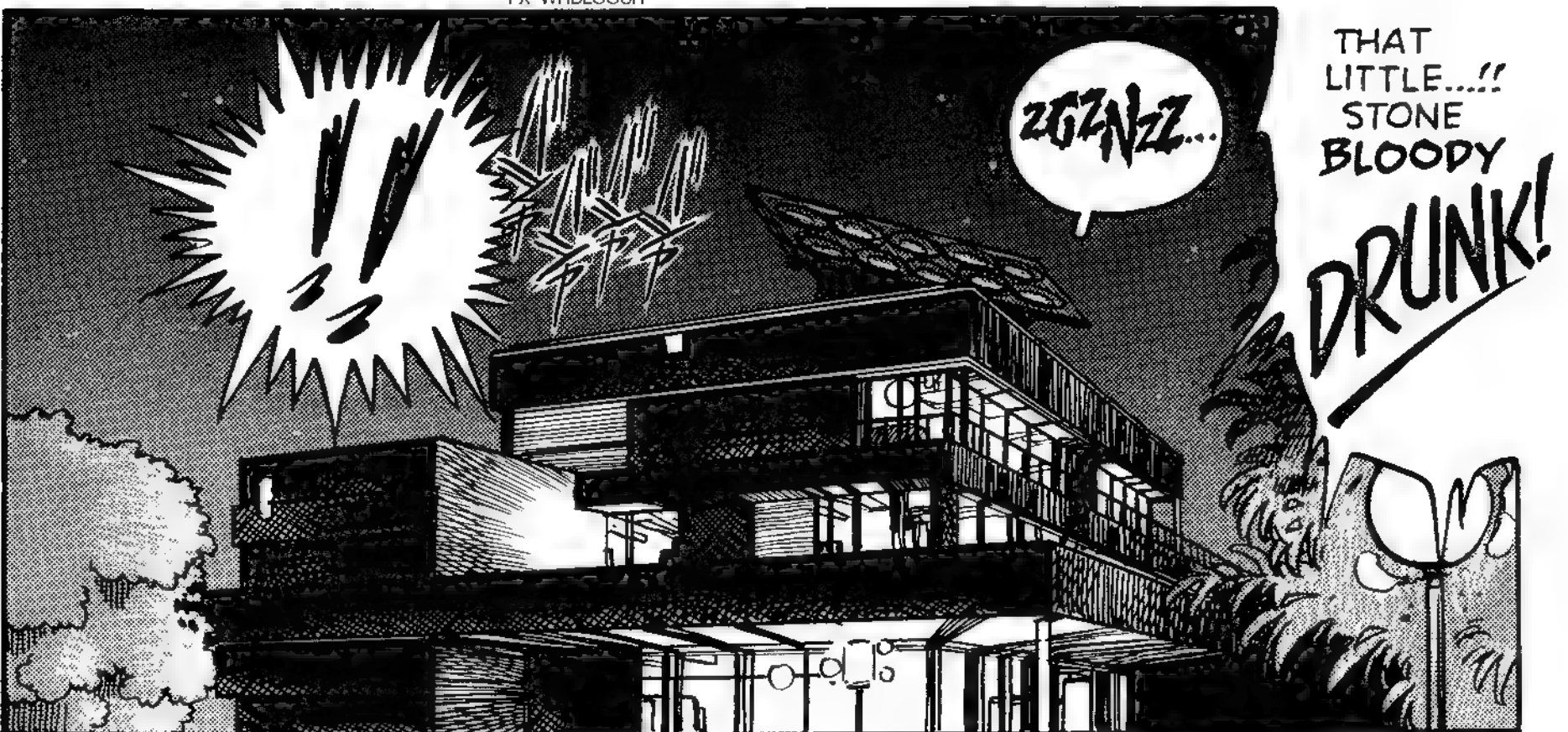




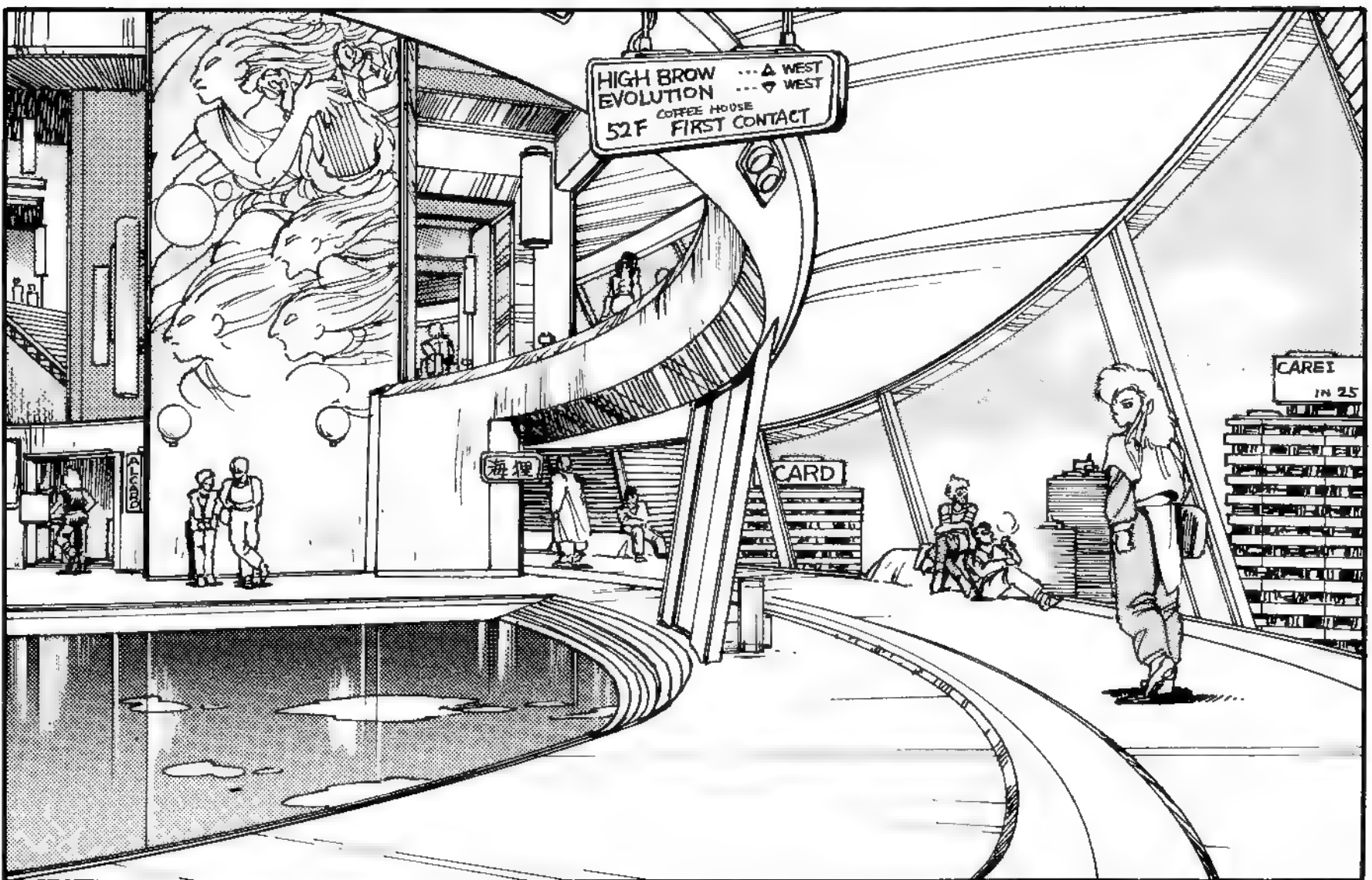
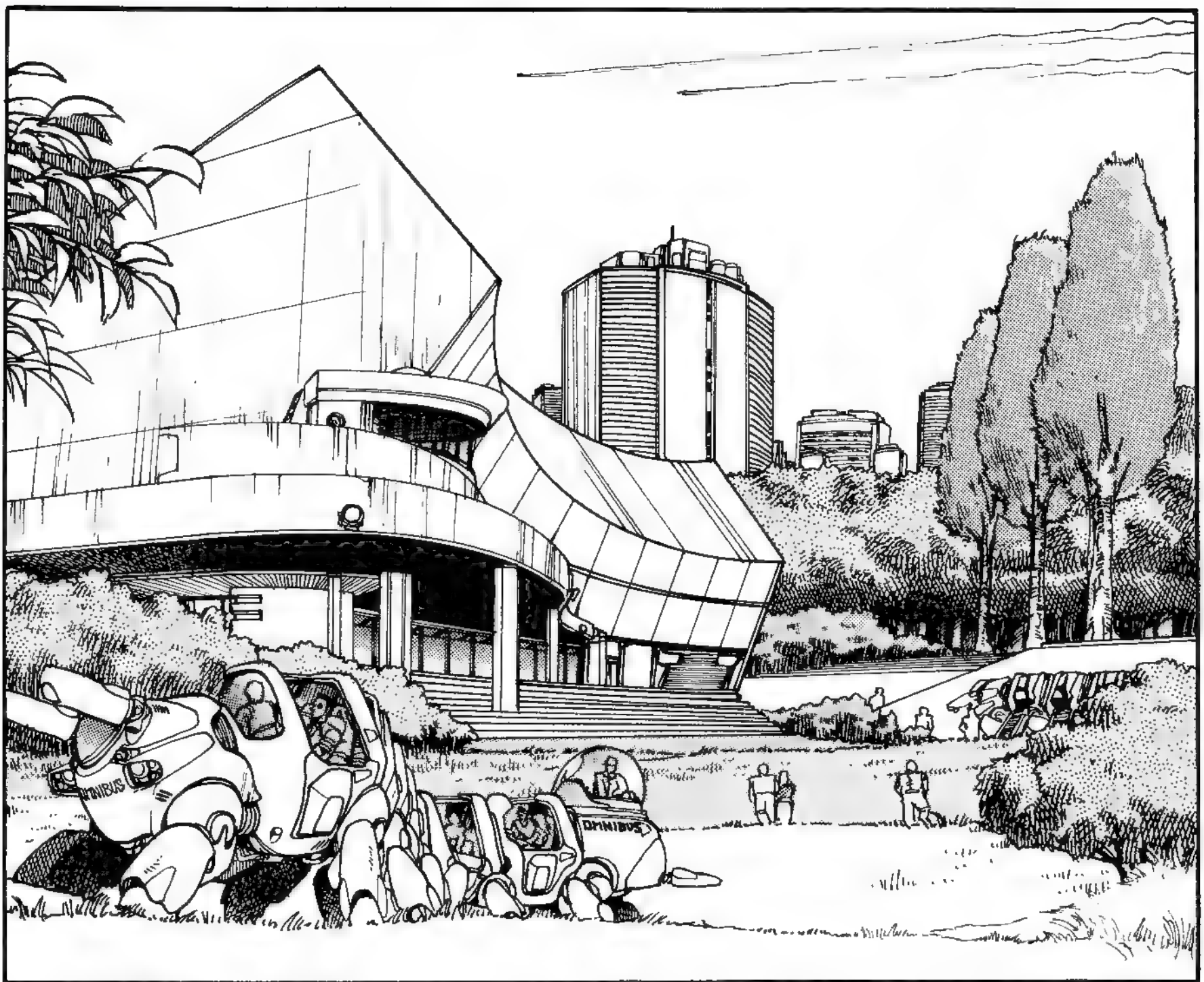
*FX FLMP

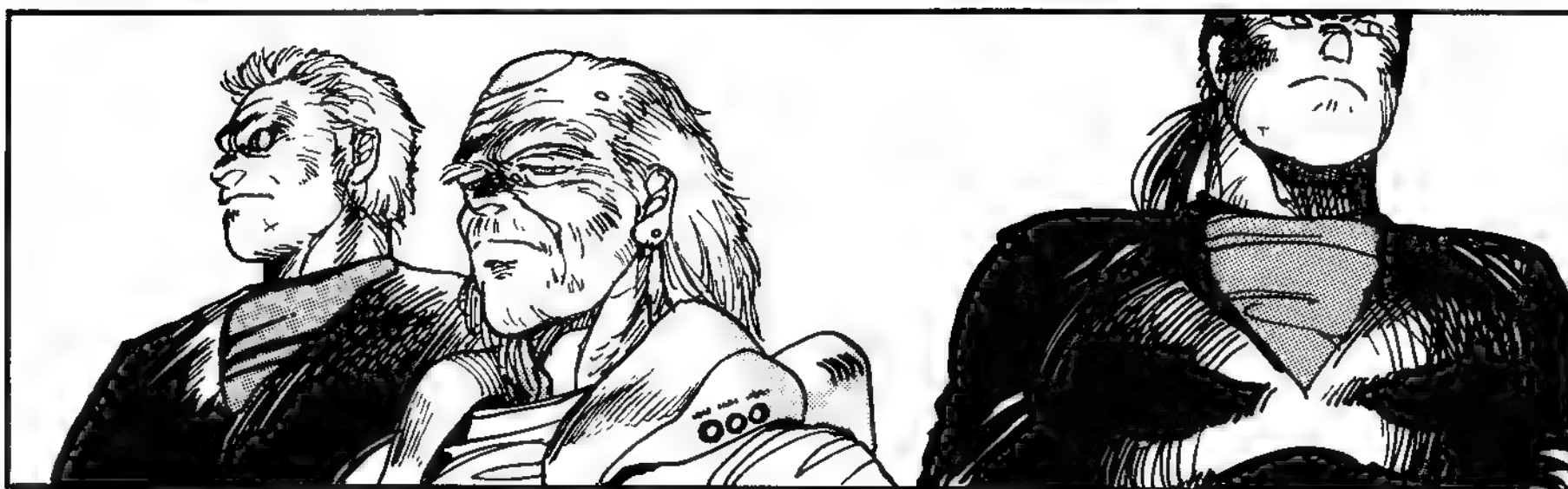
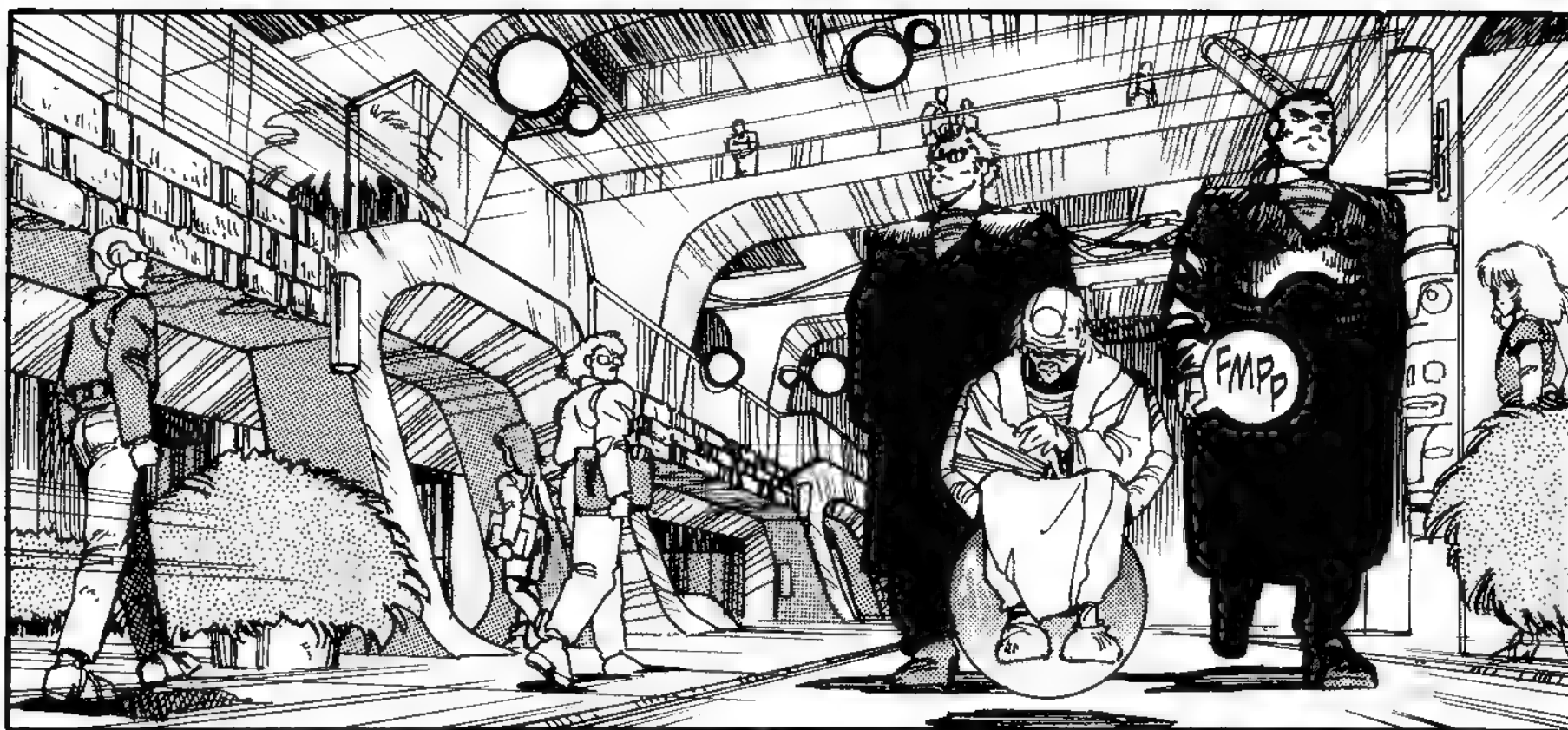


*FX WHBLOOSH

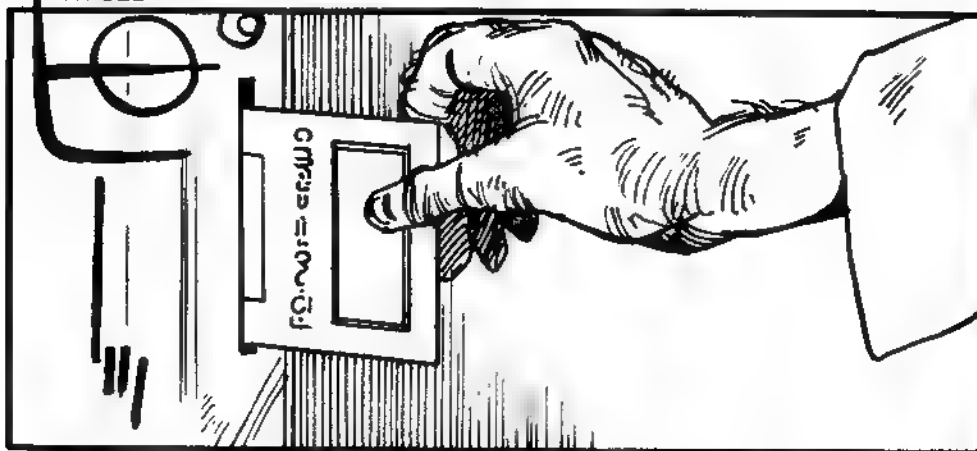


*FX GONGG

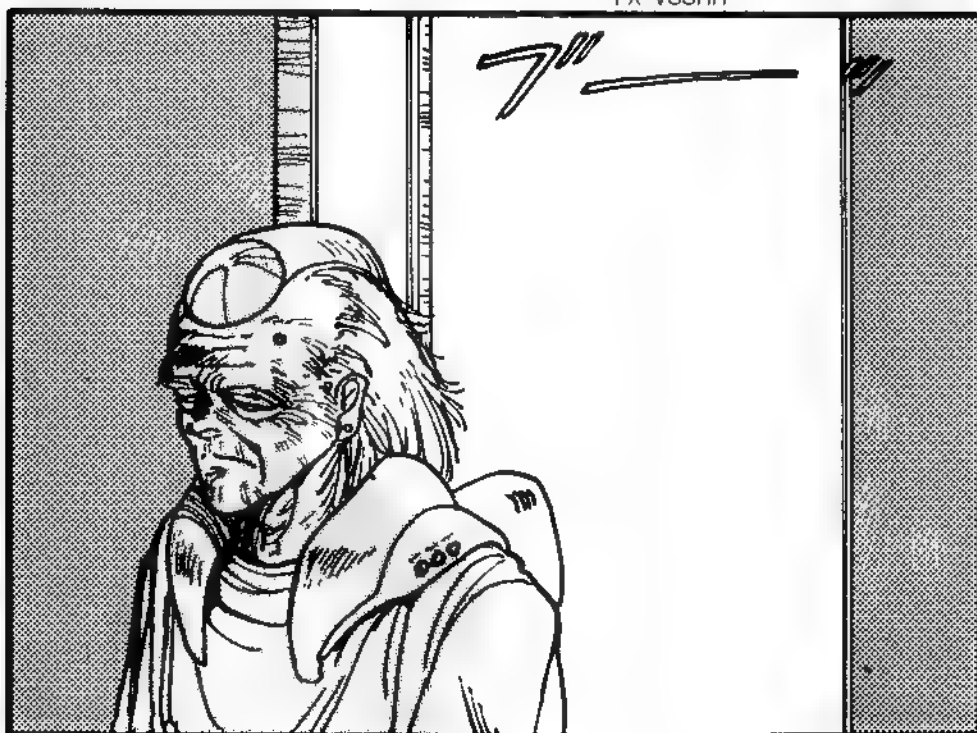




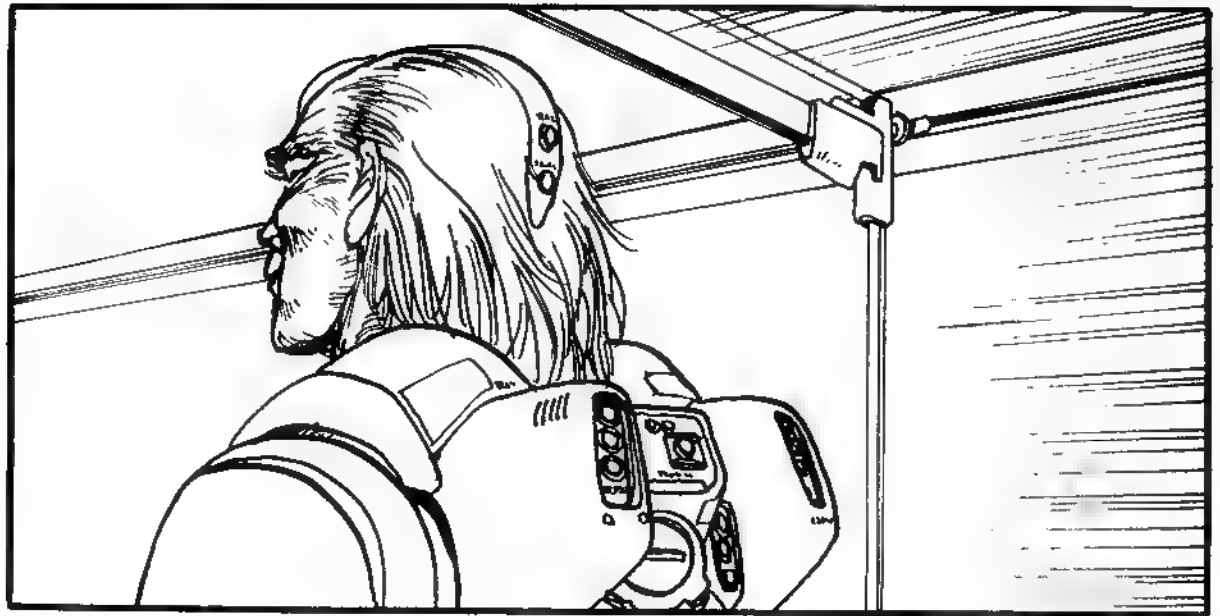
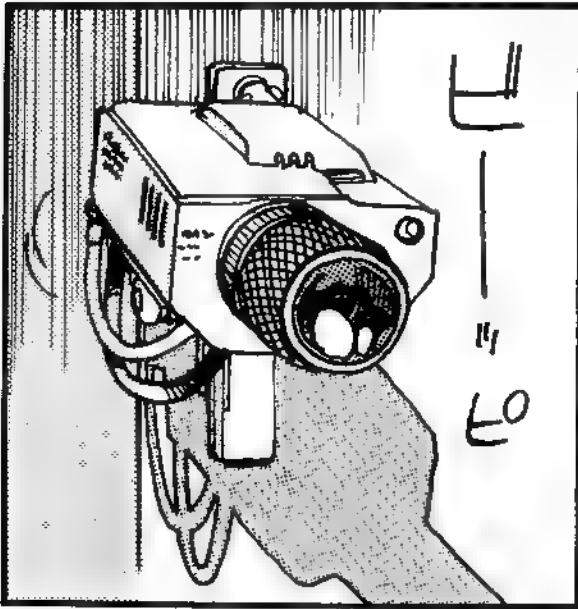
*FX BEEP



*FX VSSHH

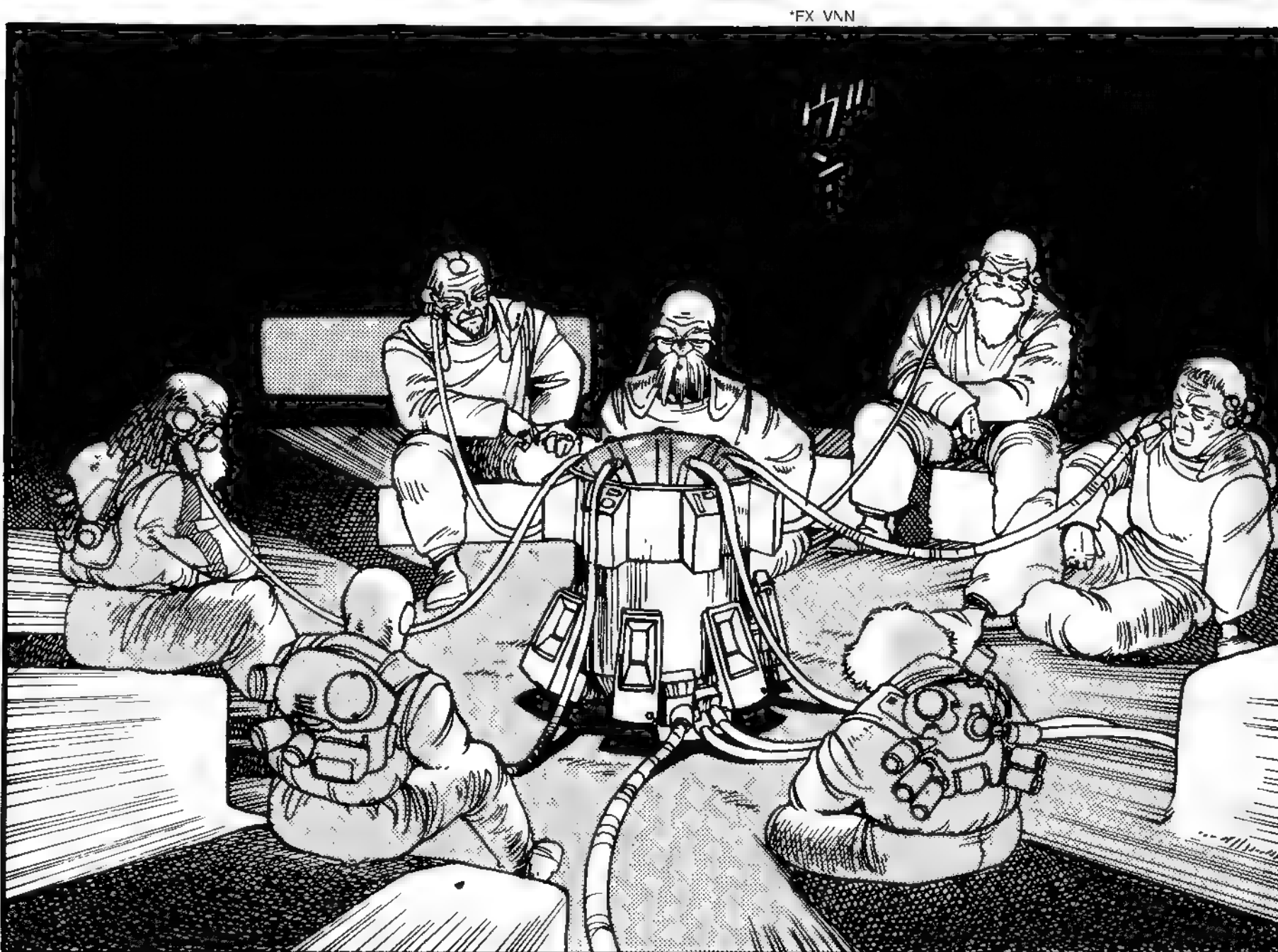
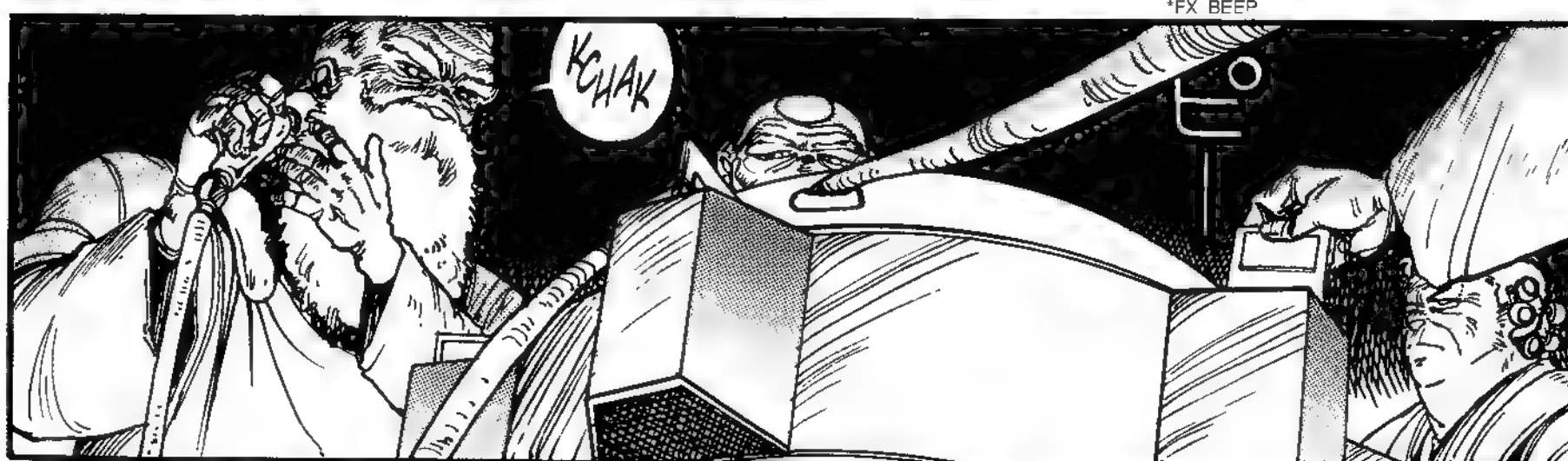
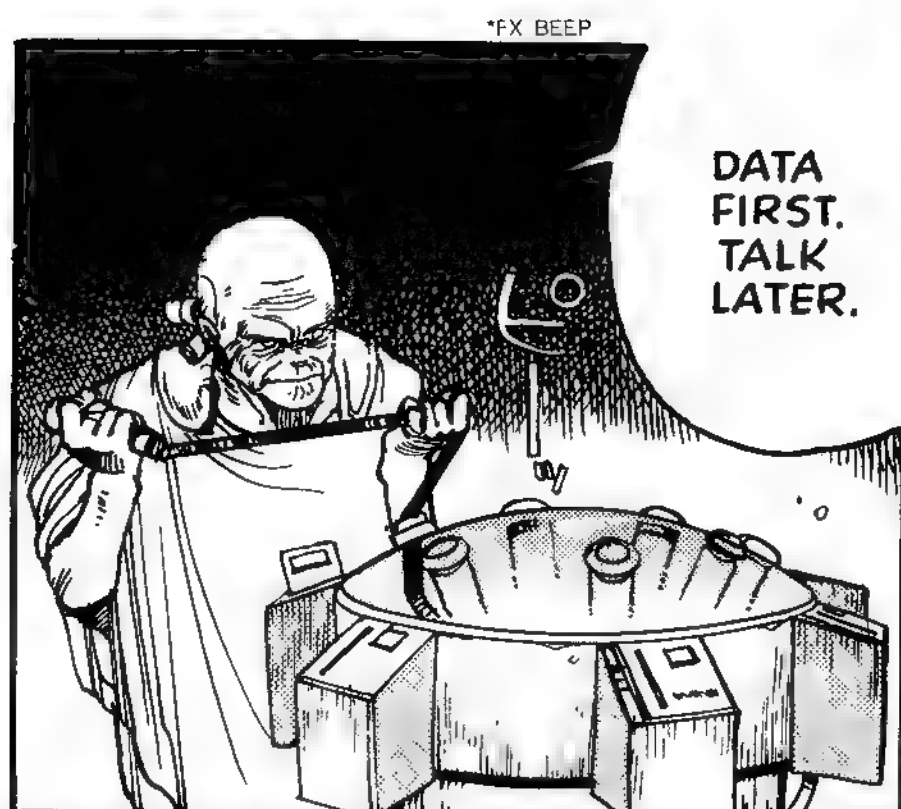


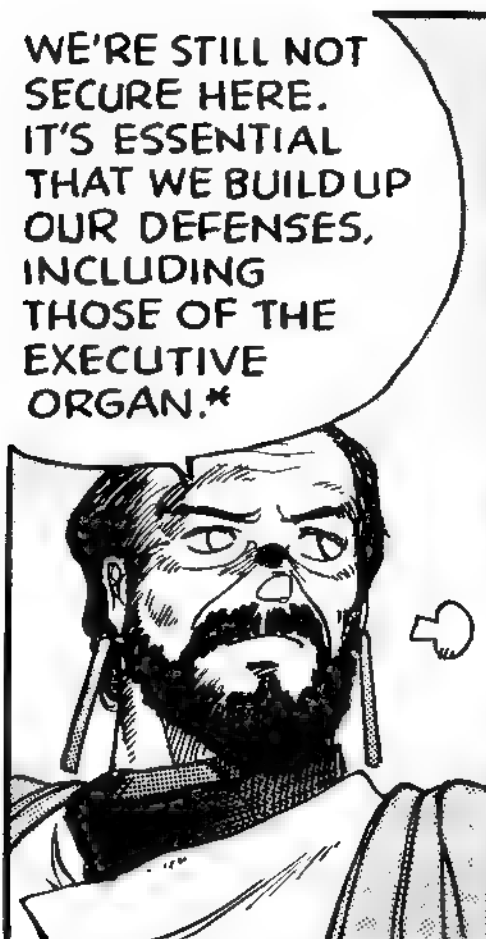
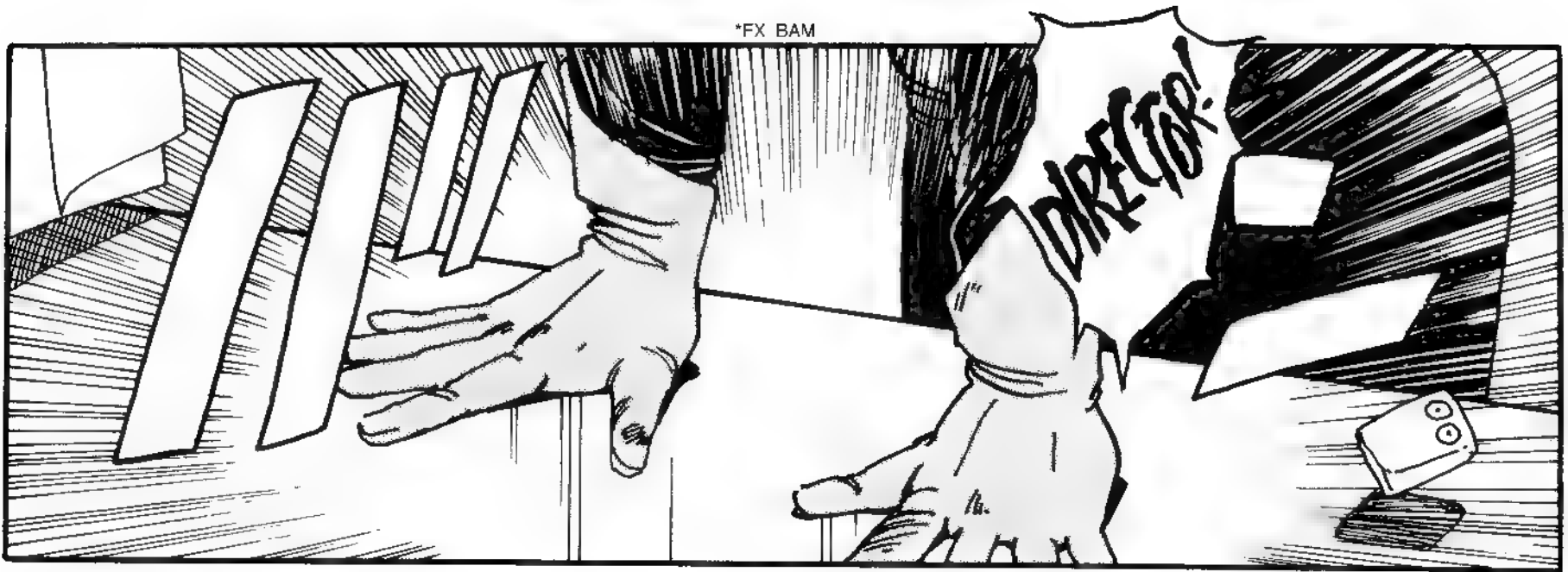
*FX VVVV BEEP



*FX VSSH



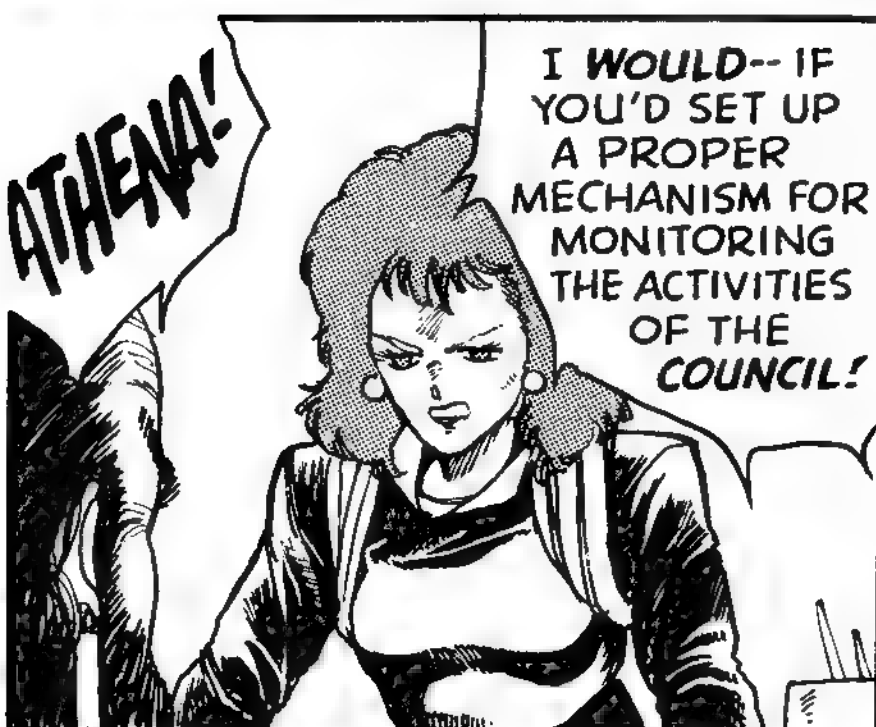




*executive organ: here it applies to a police organization.



YOU ONLY SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MOBILE WEAPONS COULD DO IN A CITY LIKE THIS!



ATHENA!

I WOULD-- IF YOU'D SET UP A PROPER MECHANISM FOR MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL!



WELL, I'M MORE CONCERNED THAT YOU'RE NOT PUTTING GREATER EFFORT INTO RECONSTRUCTION.

YOU SEEM AWFULLY CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE "GUINEA PIGS" HITOMI'S BRINGING IN.



*FX BAM

I'VE HAD ENOUGH, ATHENA!



WITH YOU IN SUCH A STATE, I'M FRANKLY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT AEGIS. YOU HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF WORK TO DO.

CONSULTING, DEPLOYMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT! INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS AND MEDIATIONS! ESTABLISHING BORDERS AND TERRITORIAL WATERS, CLEANING UP WAR DAMAGE--IT GOES ON AND ON...



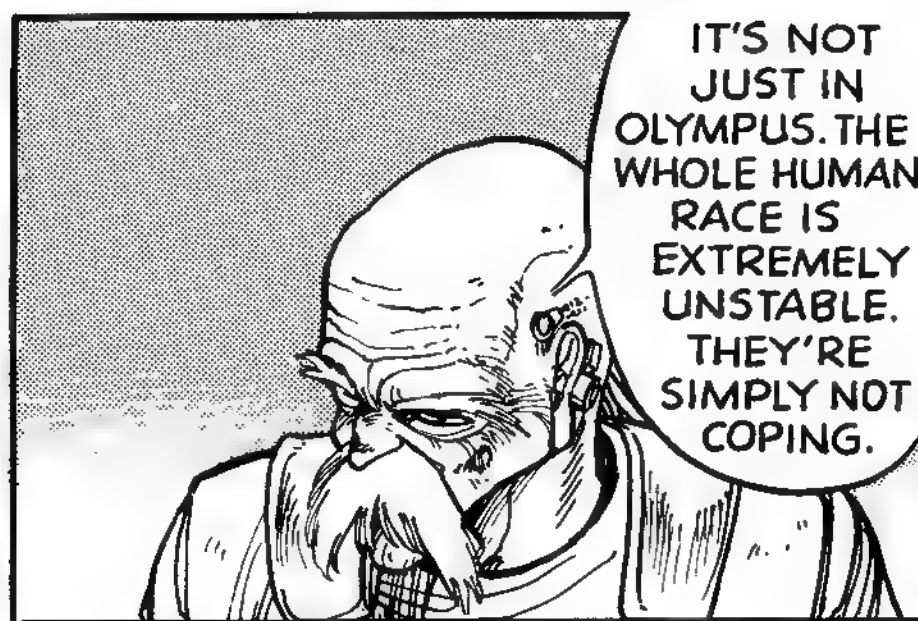
YES, A
MUCH
QUICKER
REACTION
THAN OUR
PREDIC-
TIONS.

VERY
FAST.



HIGHLY
RELIABLE,
I'M
SORRY
TO
SAY.

THE DATA
COMES
FROM
EMBASSY
ATTACHES.



IT'S NOT
JUST IN
OLYMPUS. THE
WHOLE HUMAN
RACE IS
EXTREMELY
UNSTABLE.
THEY'RE
SIMPLY NOT
COPING.



EVEN
NOW?

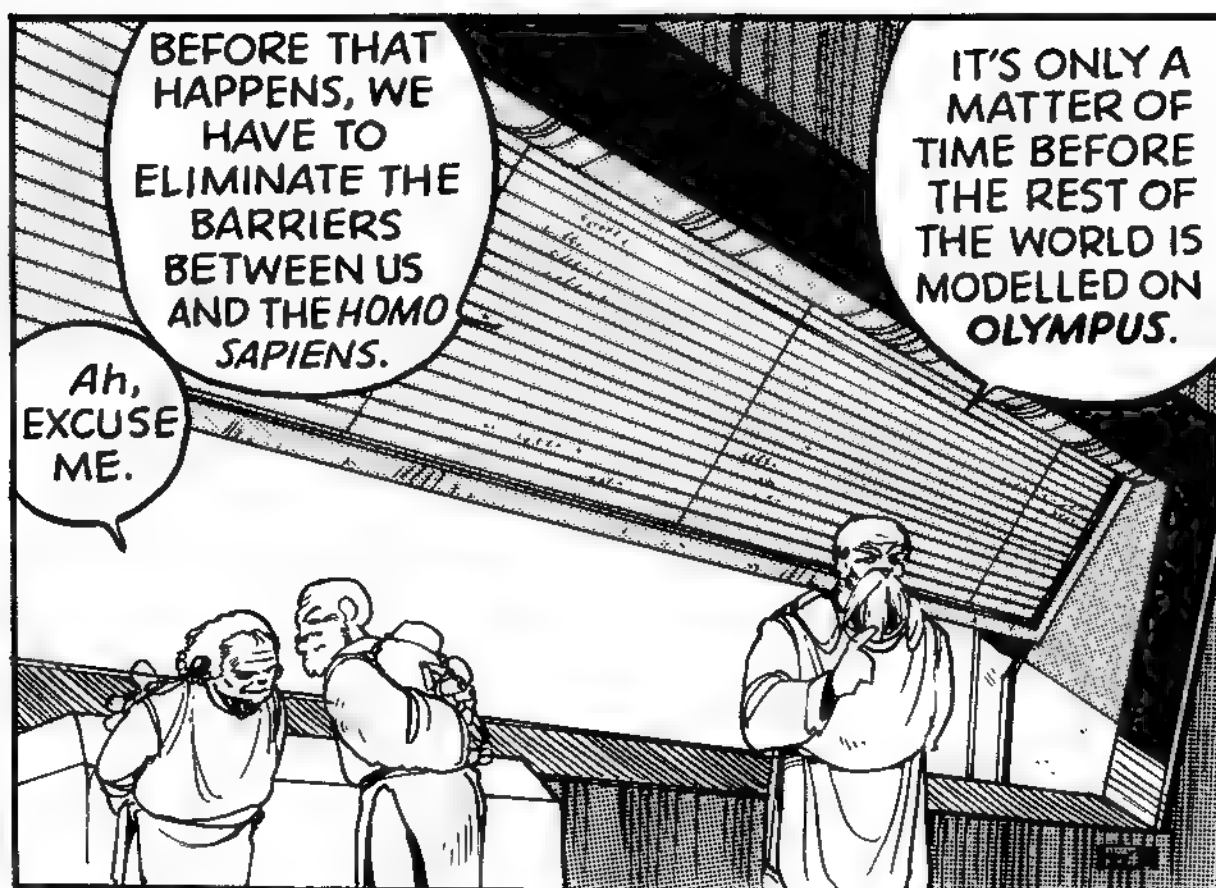
WE WERE
ON THE
BRINK OF
FINAL WAR.
WE HAD
NO CHOICE.
EVEN
NOW...

DID WE
PUSH
THE PLAN
FORWARD
TOO
FAST...?



I'VE TOLD
HITOMI TO
HURRY, BUT
SHE HAS TO
BE CAREFUL.
ATHENA...

TWO
MORE
AGENTS
AND
WE'LL
BE
READY.



BEFORE THAT
HAPPENS, WE
HAVE TO
ELIMINATE THE
BARRIERS
BETWEEN US
AND THE HOMO
SAPIENS.

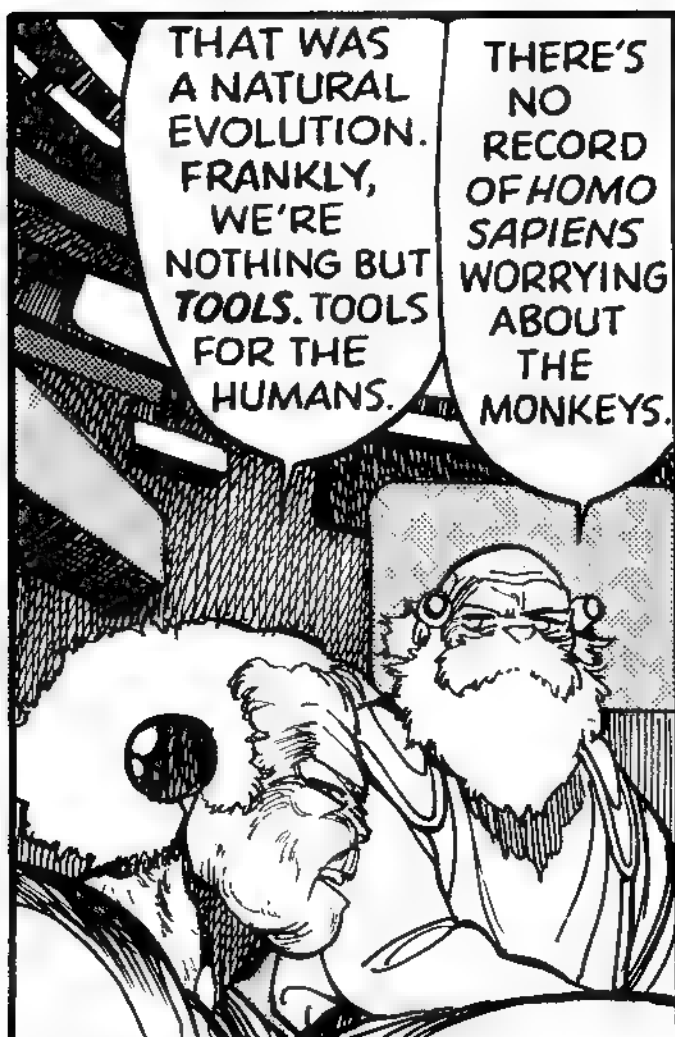
Ah,
EXCUSE
ME.

IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE
THE REST OF
THE WORLD IS
MODELLED ON
OLYMPUS.



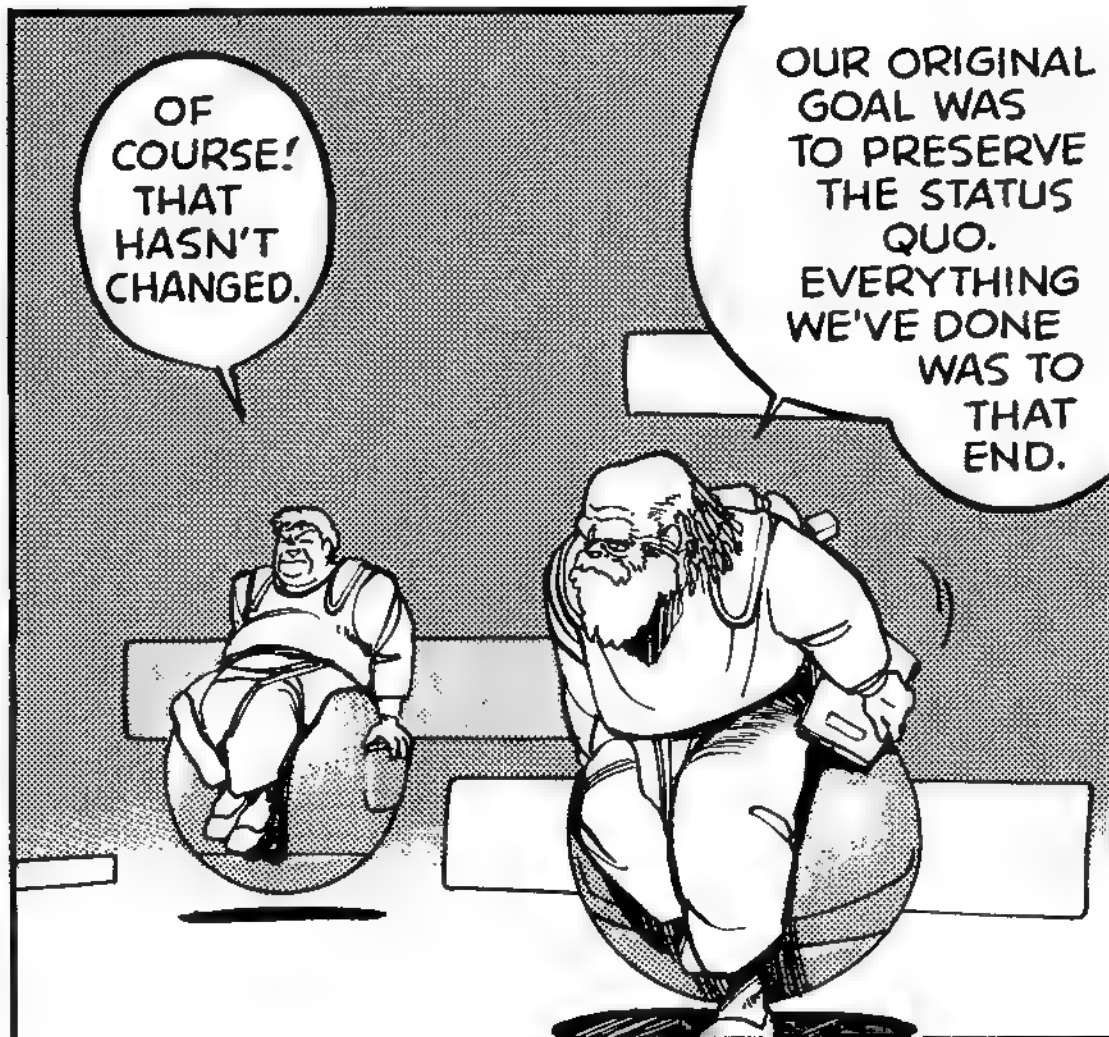
I WANT
DATA
SOLID
ENOUGH TO
CONVINCE
NINETY
PERCENT
OF THE
COUNCIL.

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEAN.
WE NEED A
CITY-WIDE
MOVEMENT.



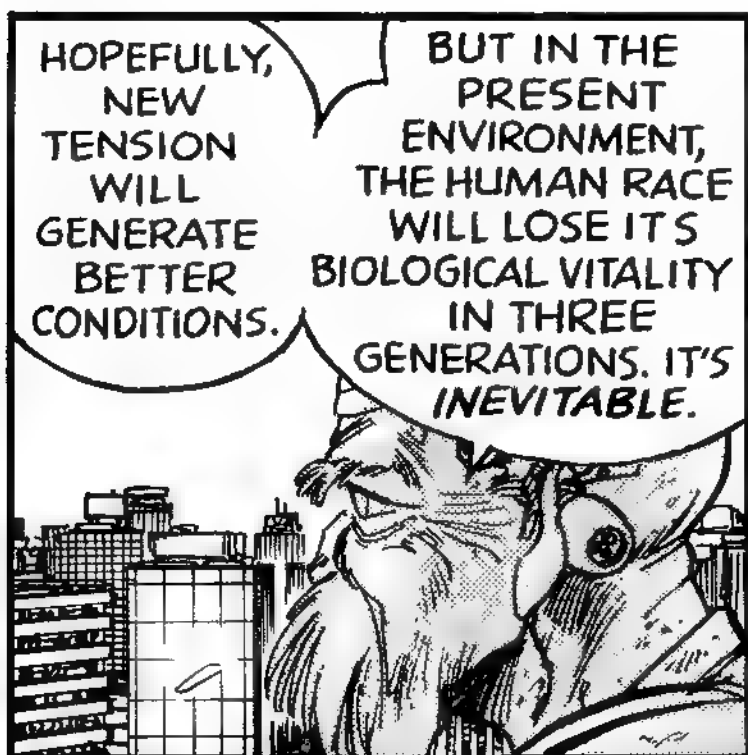
THAT WAS
A NATURAL
EVOLUTION.
FRANKLY,
WE'RE
NOTHING BUT
TOOLS. TOOLS
FOR THE
HUMANS.

THERE'S
NO
RECORD
OF HOMO
SAPIENS
WORRYING
ABOUT
THE
MONKEYS.



OF
COURSE!
THAT
HASN'T
CHANGED.

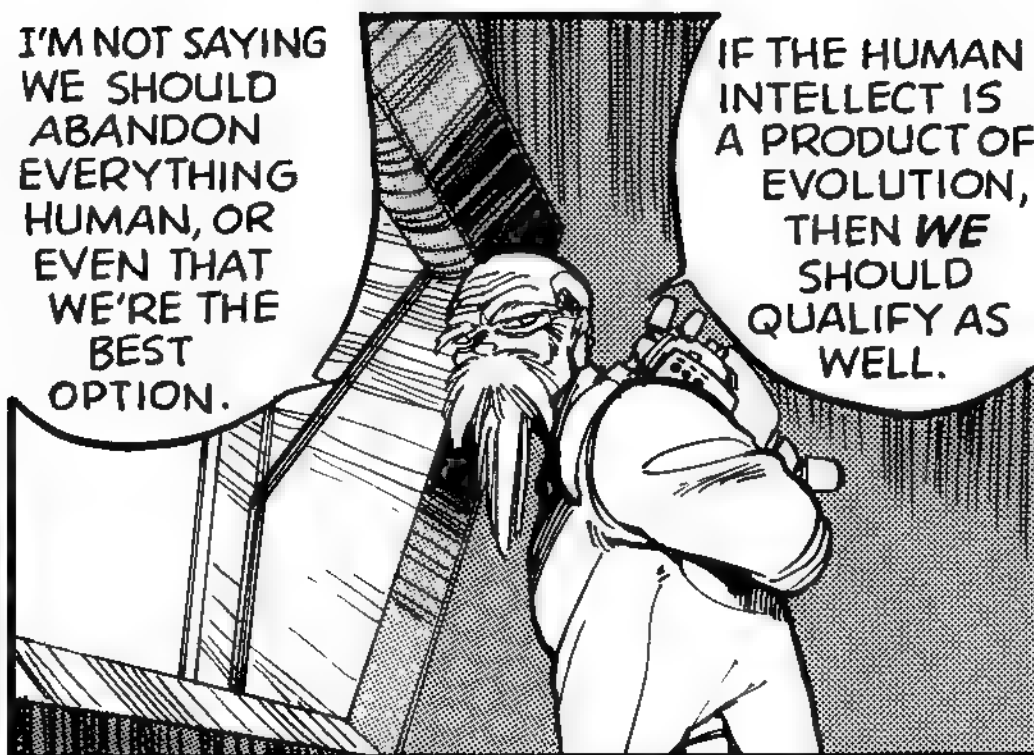
OUR ORIGINAL
GOAL WAS
TO PRESERVE
THE STATUS
QUO.
EVERYTHING
WE'VE DONE
WAS TO
THAT
END.



HOPEFULLY, NEW TENSION WILL GENERATE BETTER CONDITIONS.

BUT IN THE PRESENT ENVIRONMENT, THE HUMAN RACE WILL LOSE ITS BIOLOGICAL VITALITY IN THREE GENERATIONS. IT'S *INEVITABLE*.

I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD ABANDON EVERYTHING HUMAN, OR EVEN THAT WE'RE THE BEST OPTION.



IF THE HUMAN INTELLECT IS A PRODUCT OF EVOLUTION, THEN *WE* SHOULD QUALIFY AS WELL.



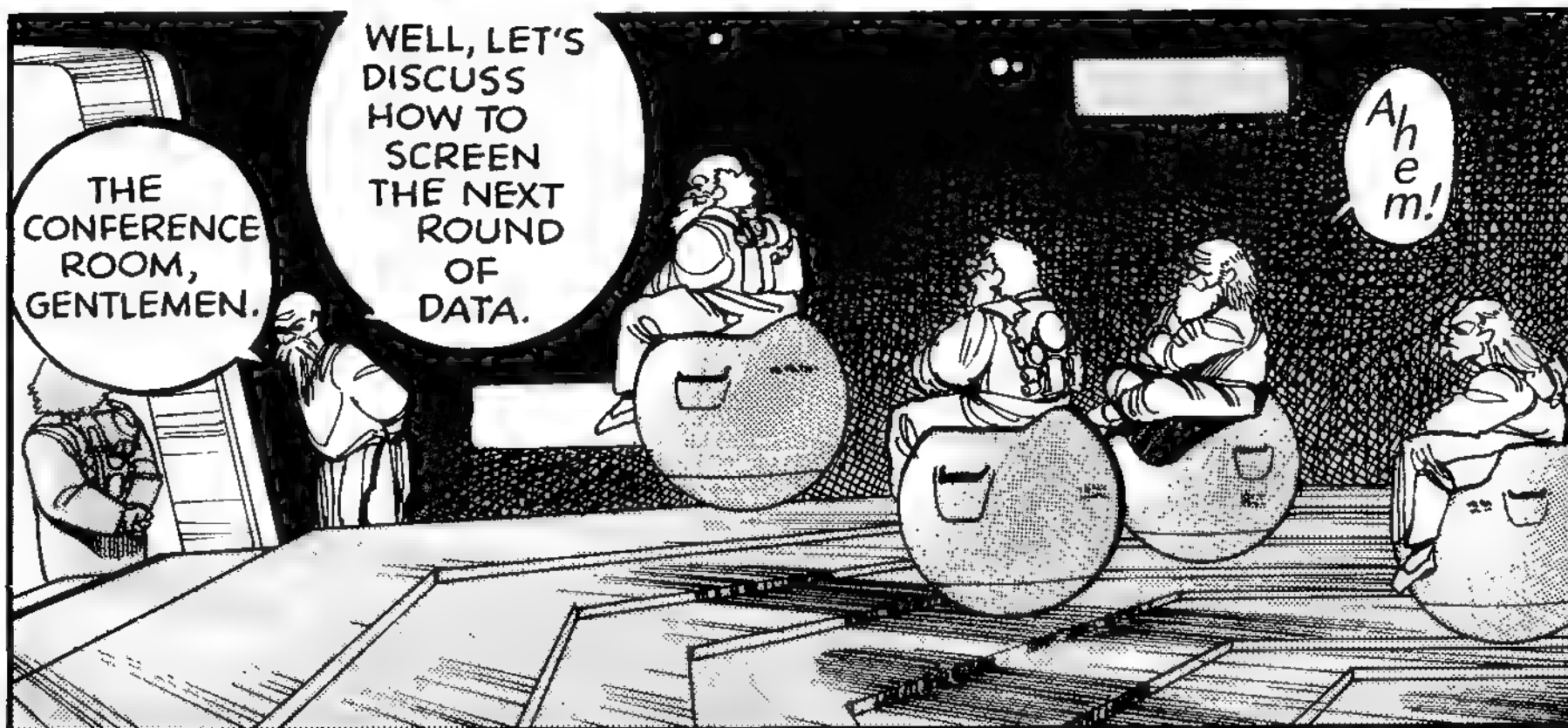
AND THE OLD COLD WAR POWER GAMES ...?

WE CAN'T JUST **ABANDON** THE REFUGEES, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE POOR... THAT'S SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE POPULATION.

IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS THAT... A HARSHER ENVIRONMENT ISN'T NECESSARILY BETTER. SOCIETY DETERIORATES, MORALS COLLAPSE...



WE SHOULD'VE ALREADY REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON THAT... THERE'S NO MORE TIME.



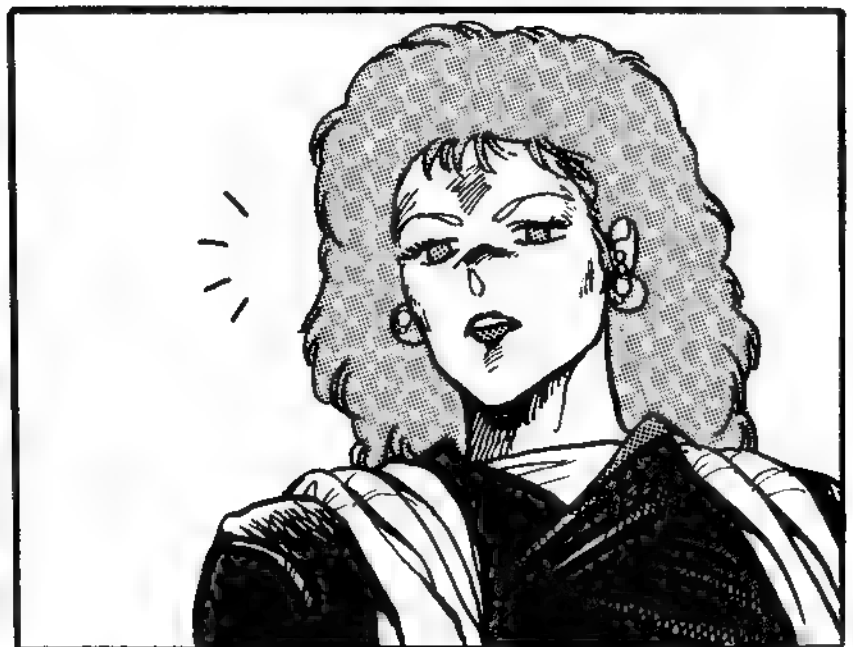
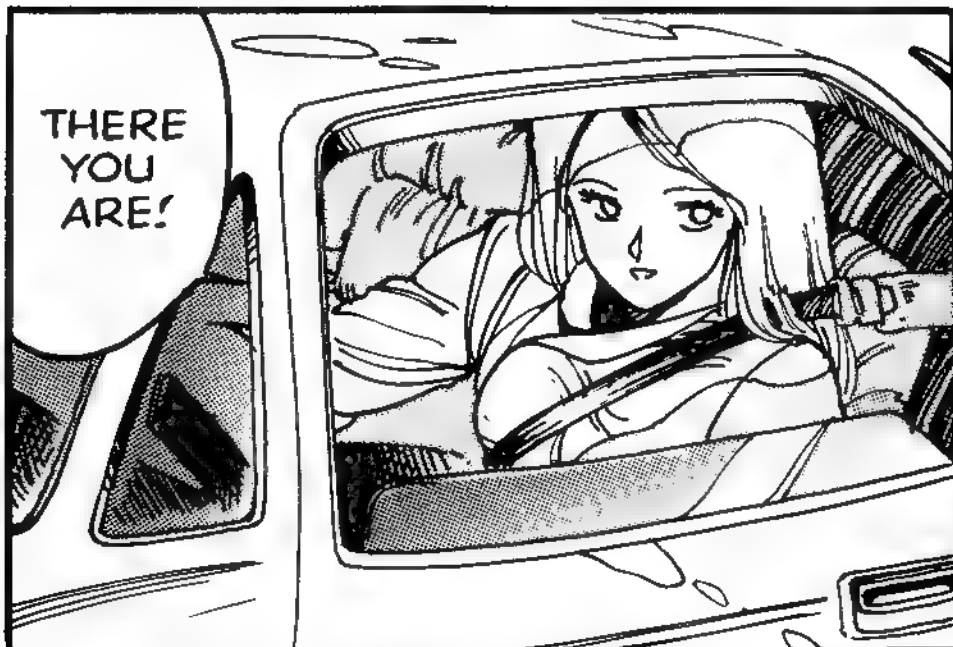
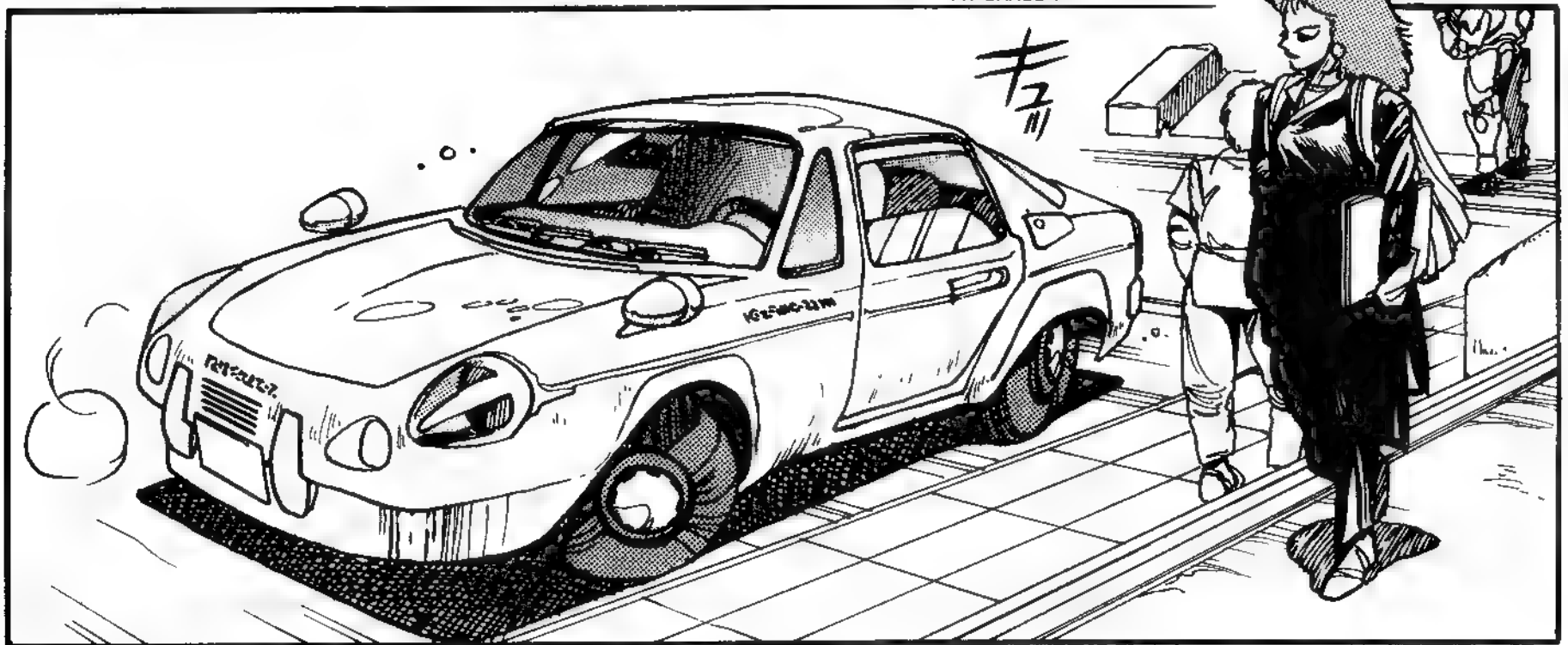
THE CONFERENCE ROOM, GENTLEMEN.

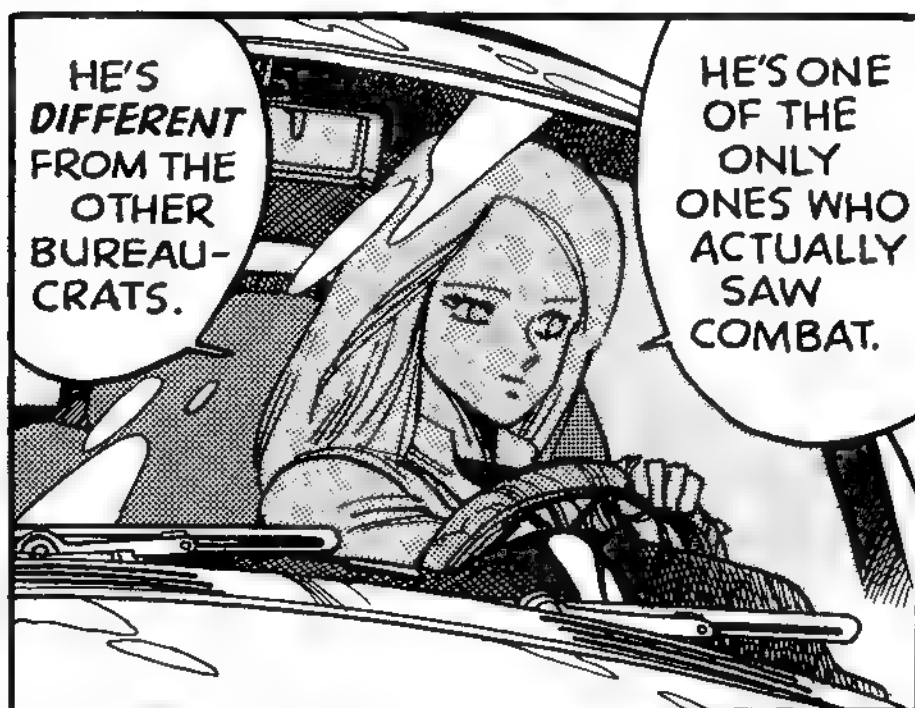
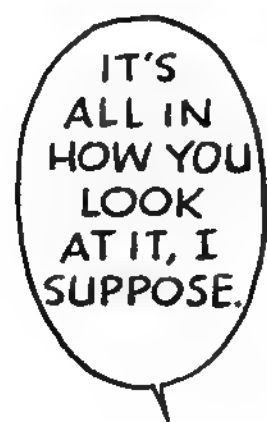
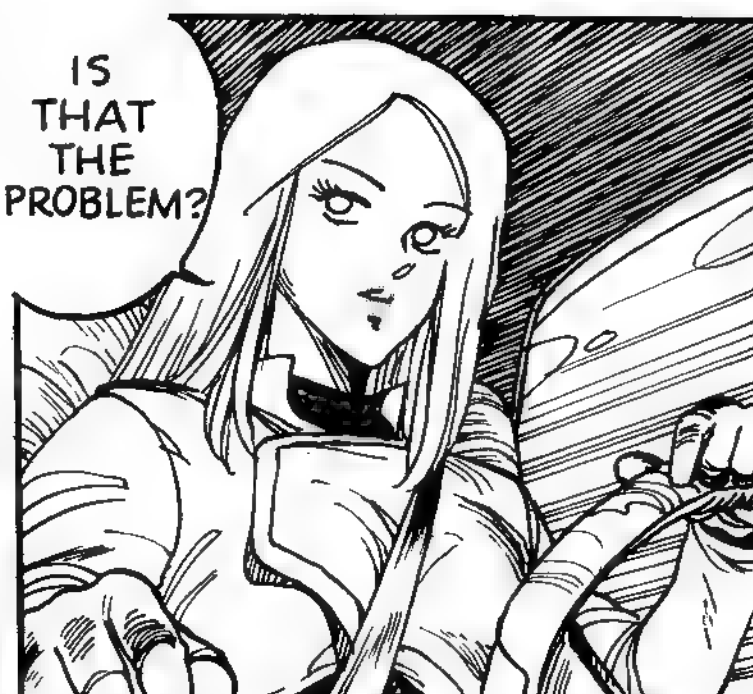
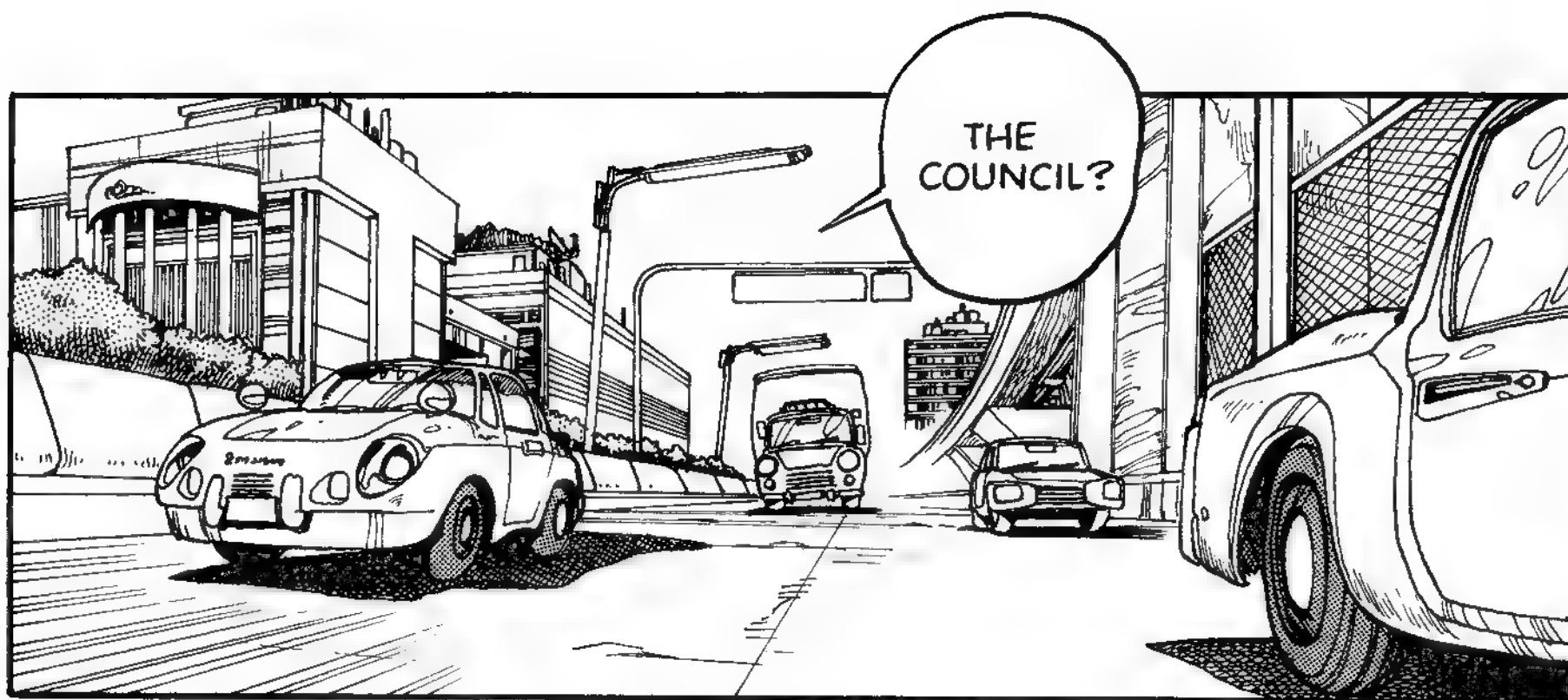
WELL, LET'S DISCUSS HOW TO SCREEN THE NEXT ROUND OF DATA.

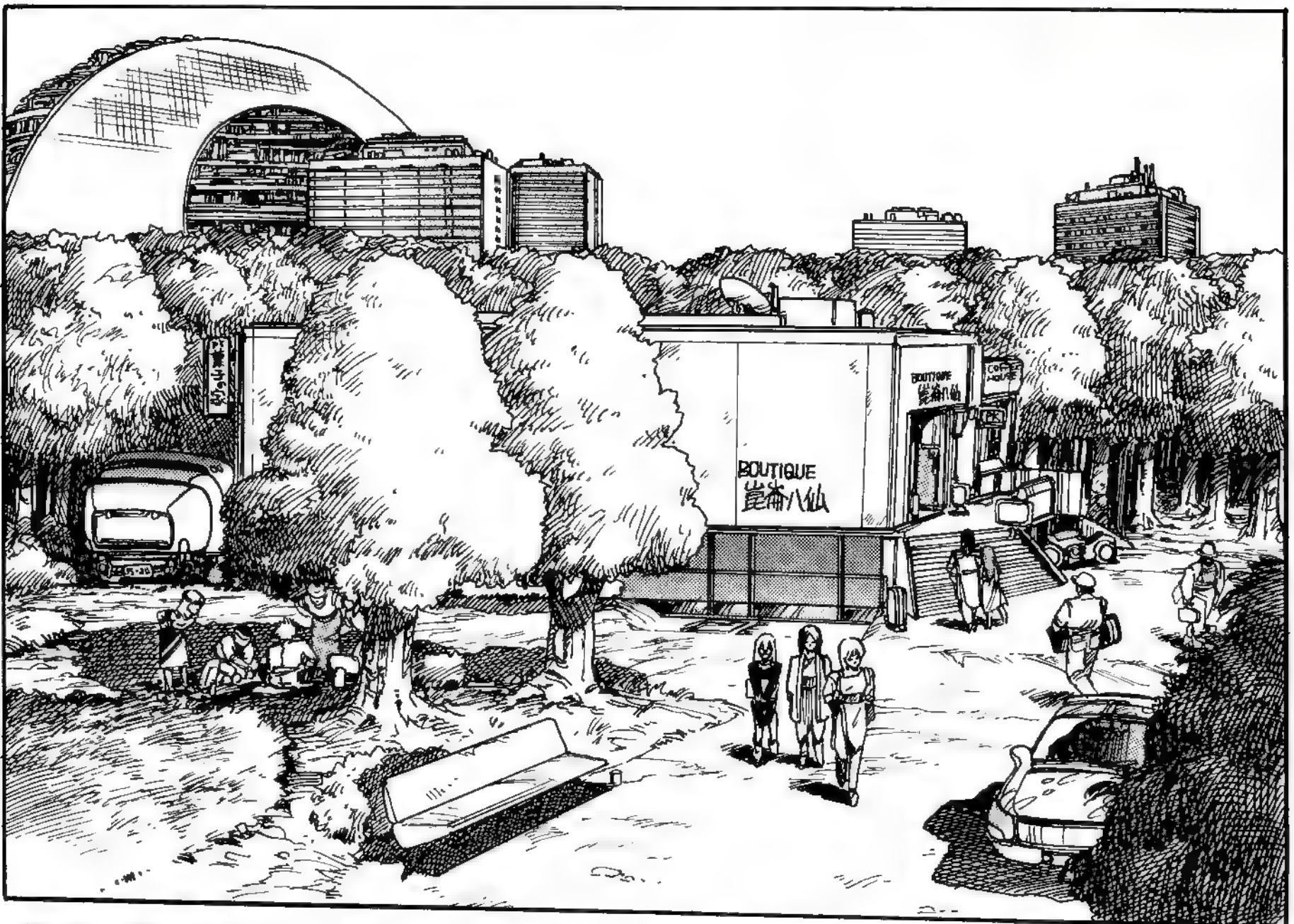
Ah e m!



*FX SKREEK







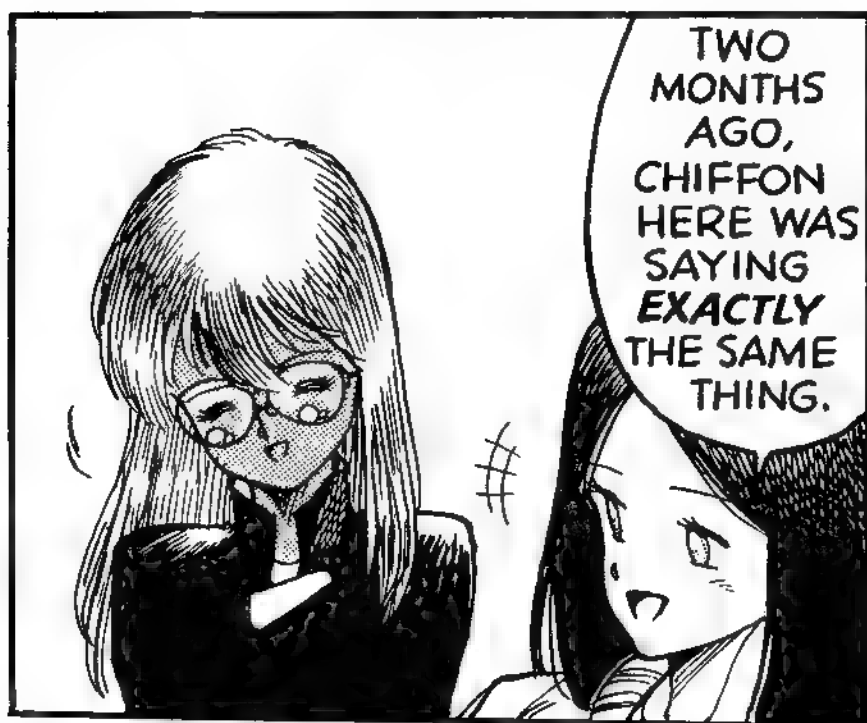
*FX. HEE HEE

*on shirt fushin (wind god)

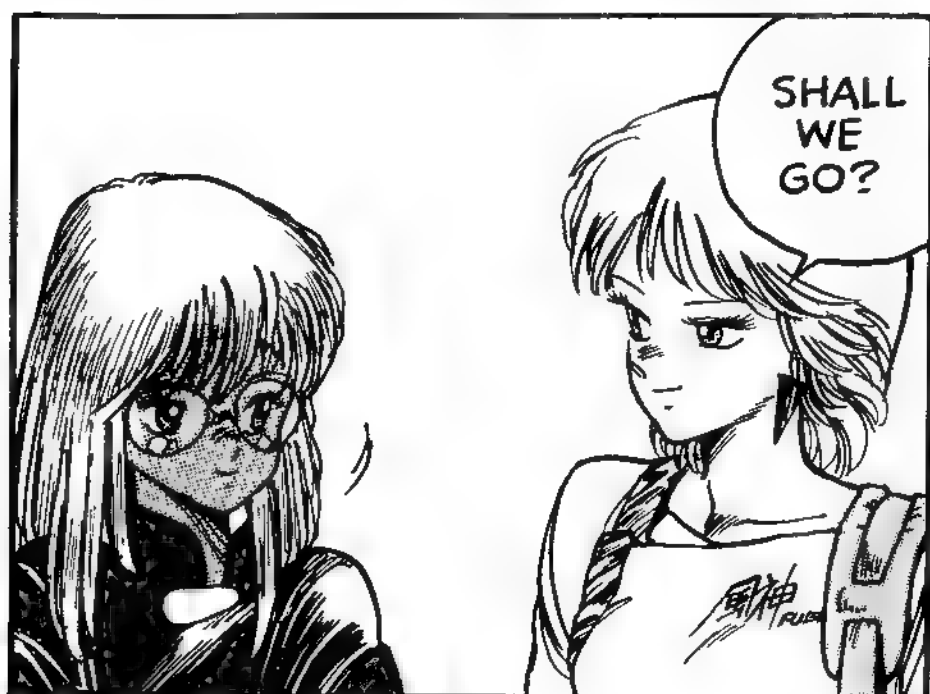
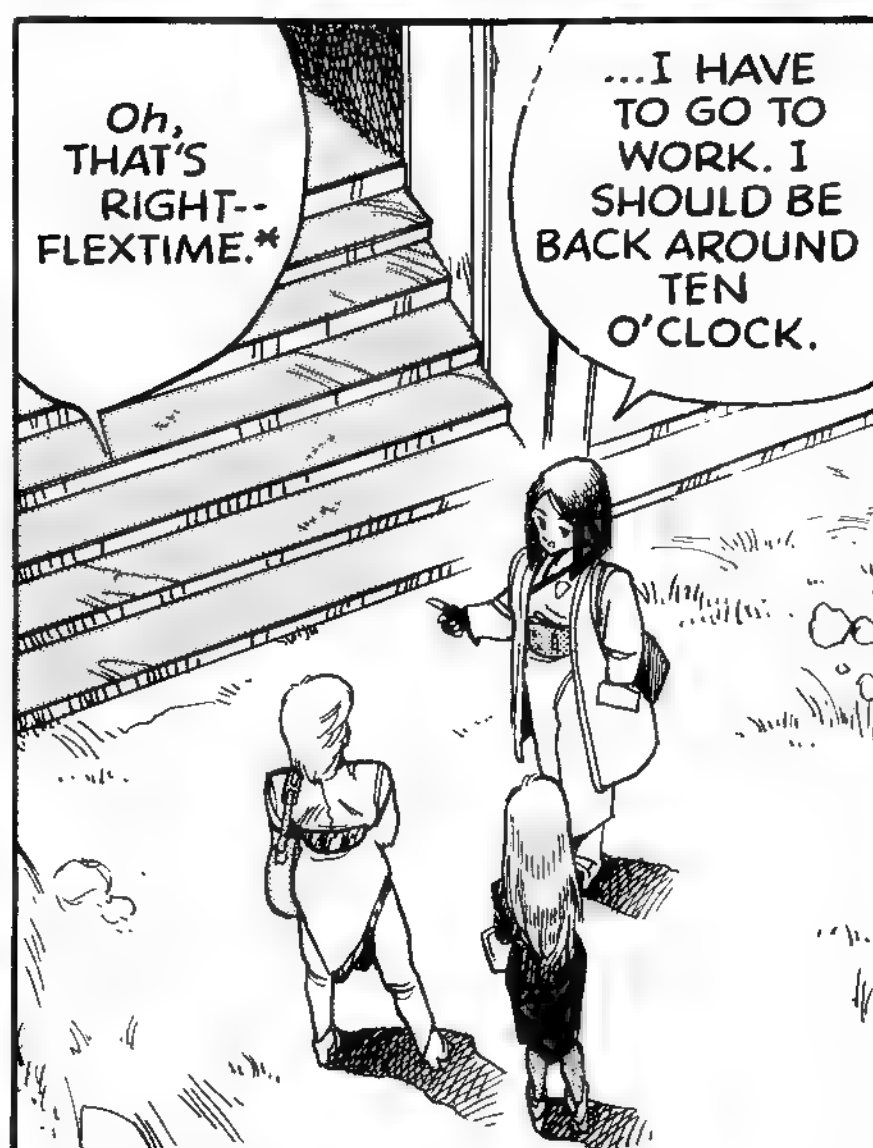
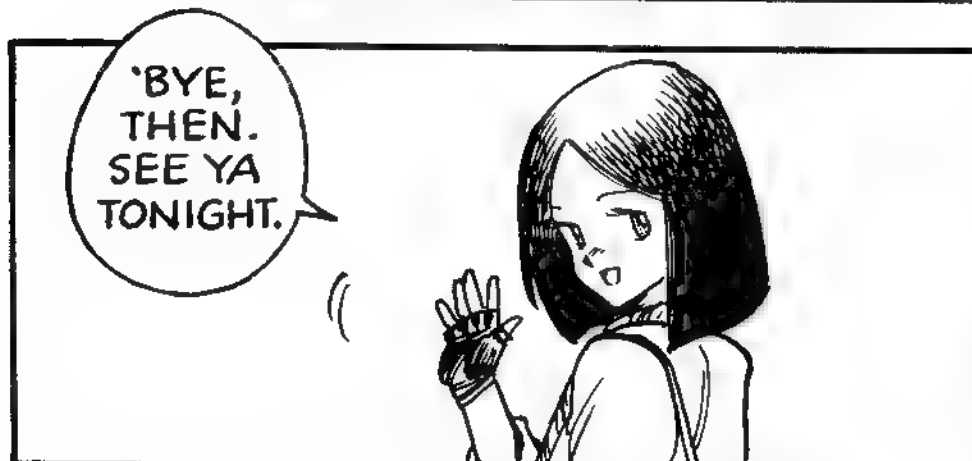


*FX. FLAP FLAP FLAP

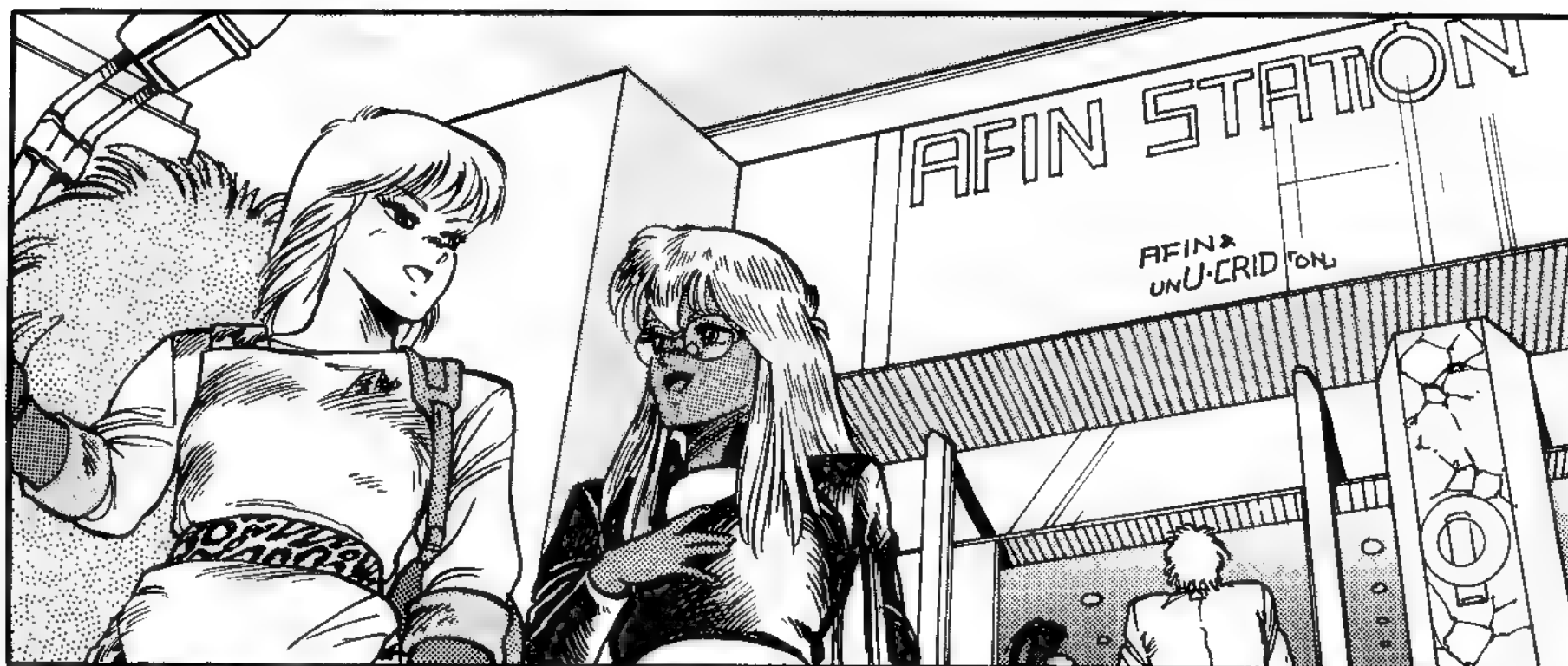




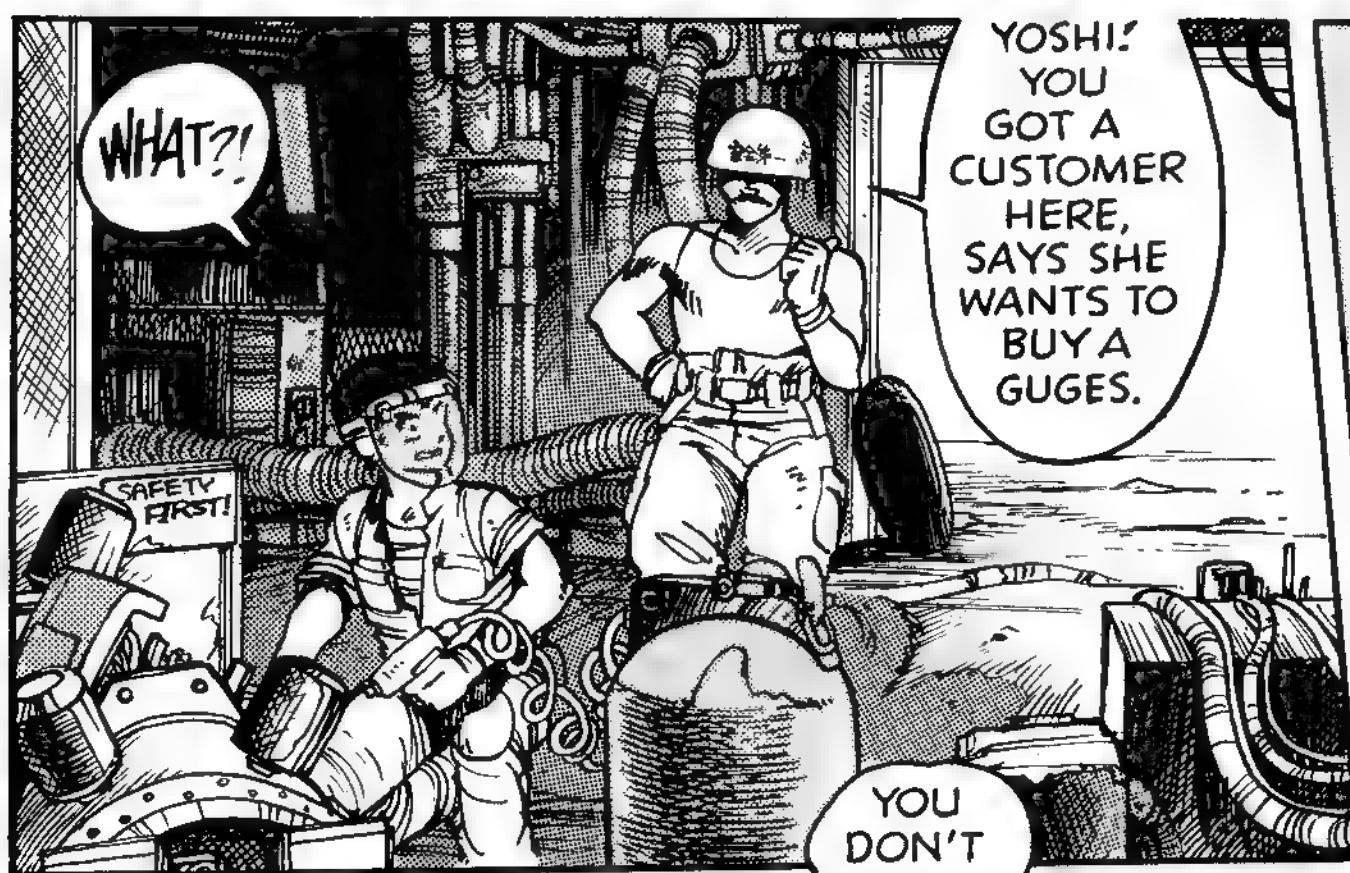
*FX FLAP FLAP FLAP

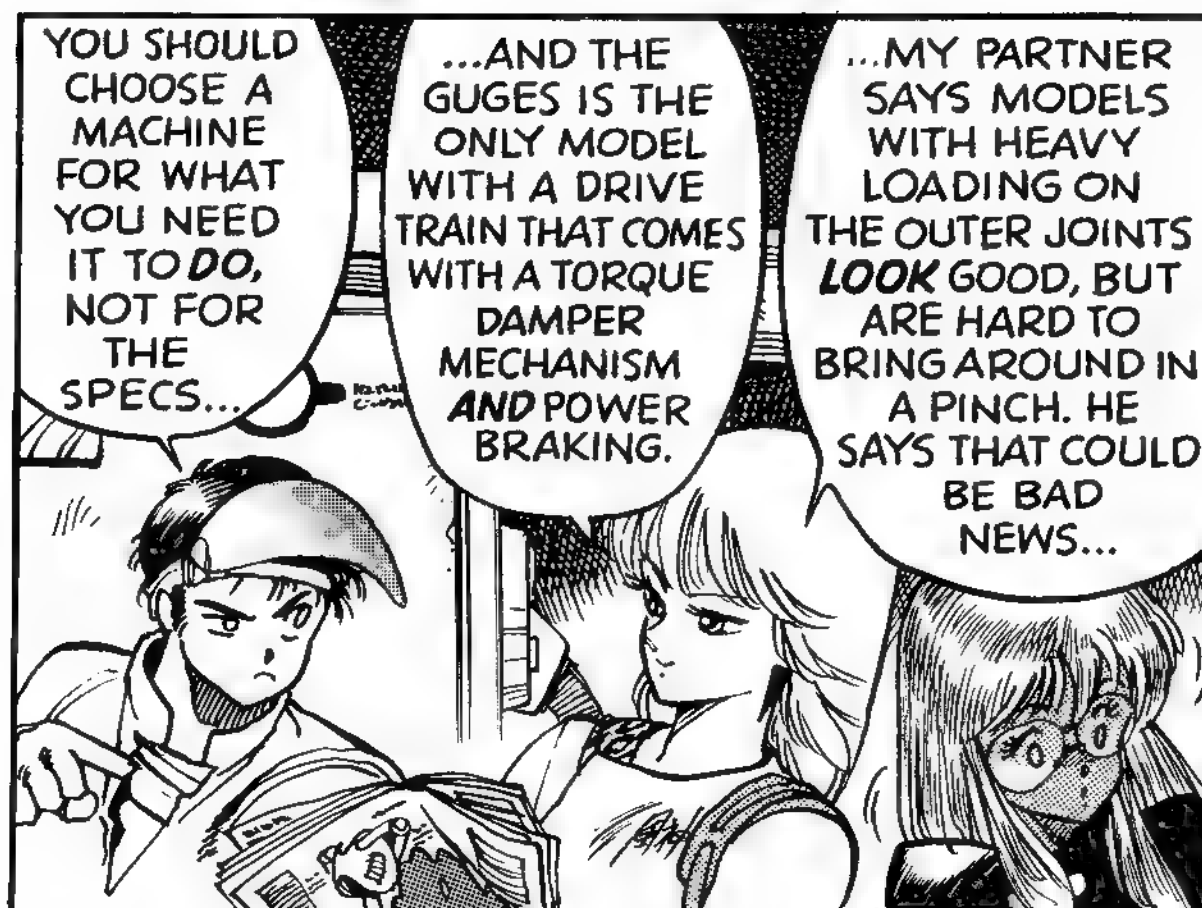


*flextime: flexible work hours



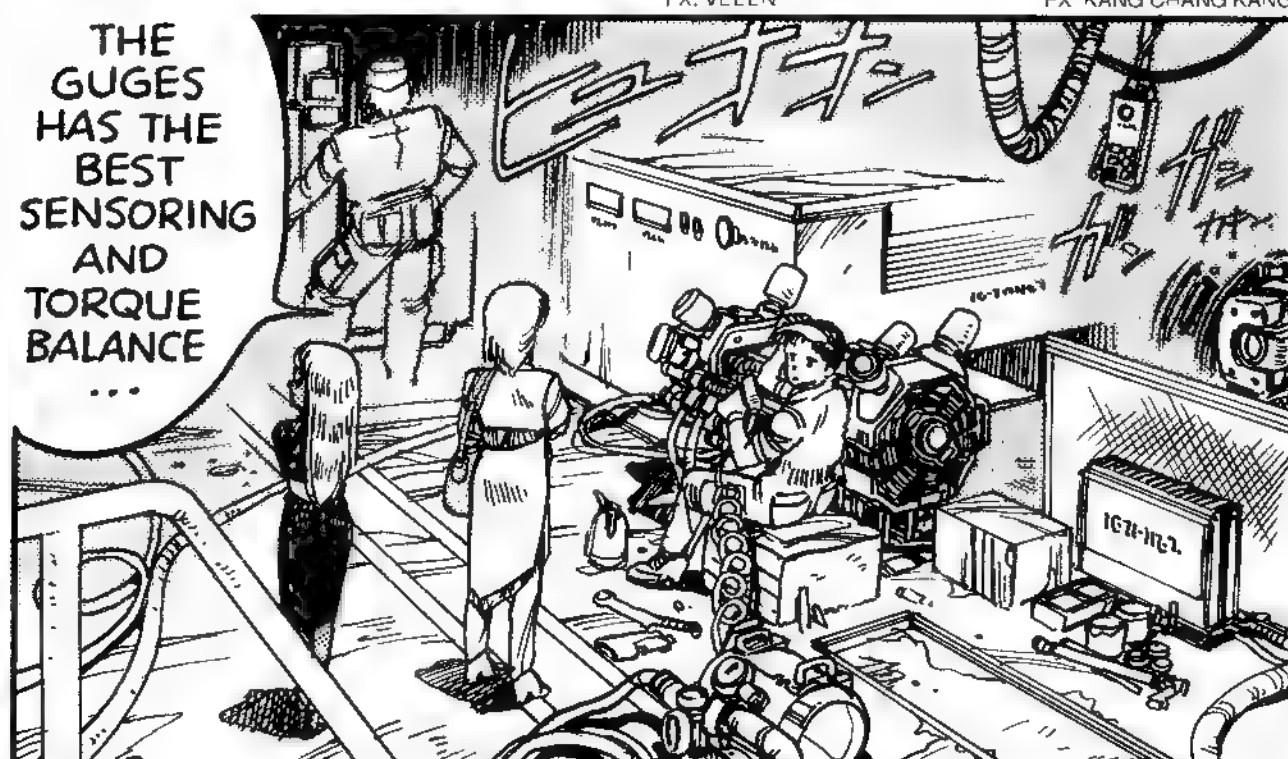
*FX VRRM VRRM VWEE





*FX. VEEEN

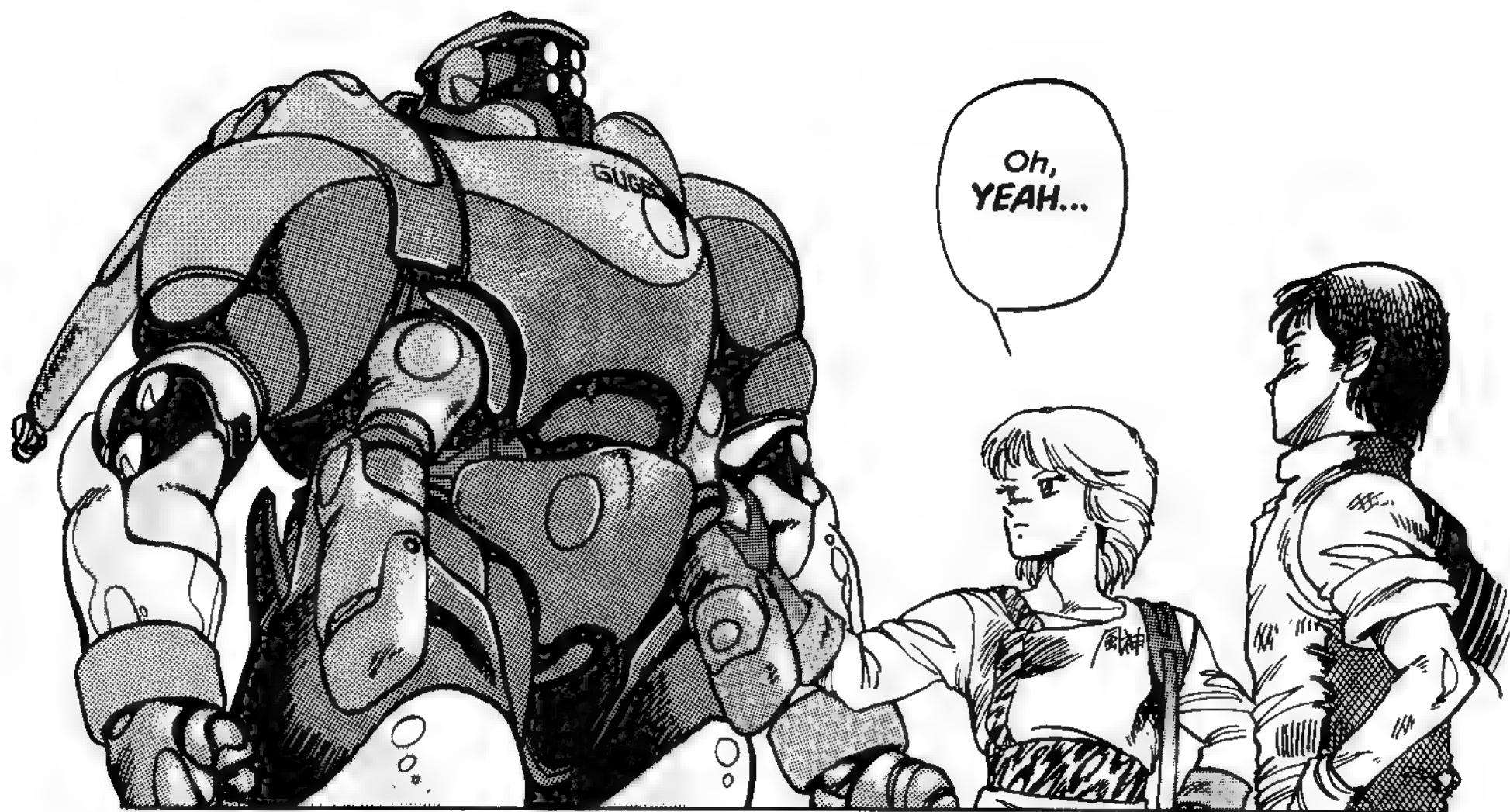
*FX KANG CHANG KANG



*FX VRRMM



*feedback: usually used in electric terminology, when part of the output of a circuit is put back into the input, increasing the output (positive feedback), or reducing it (negative feedback).



Oh,
YEAH...

BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF
SOFT-SHELL UNITS... PLUS,
THE BEARINGS IN THE
THREE-AXIS JOINTS AND
THE VIBRATION DAMPERS
IN THE SENSOR KIT ALL
USE MAGNETIC FLUID
COMPONENTS. YOU'LL
DISLOCATE THEM
IF YOU RUN
IT **TOO**
HARD.

THE
DRIVE
TRAIN
ITSELF
ABSORBS
MOST
OF THE
SHOCK.

WHY ISN'T
THERE
MORE SHOCK
ABSORBING
MATERIAL
IN THE
CUSHIONS*
AND THE
TENDON
SHEATHS?

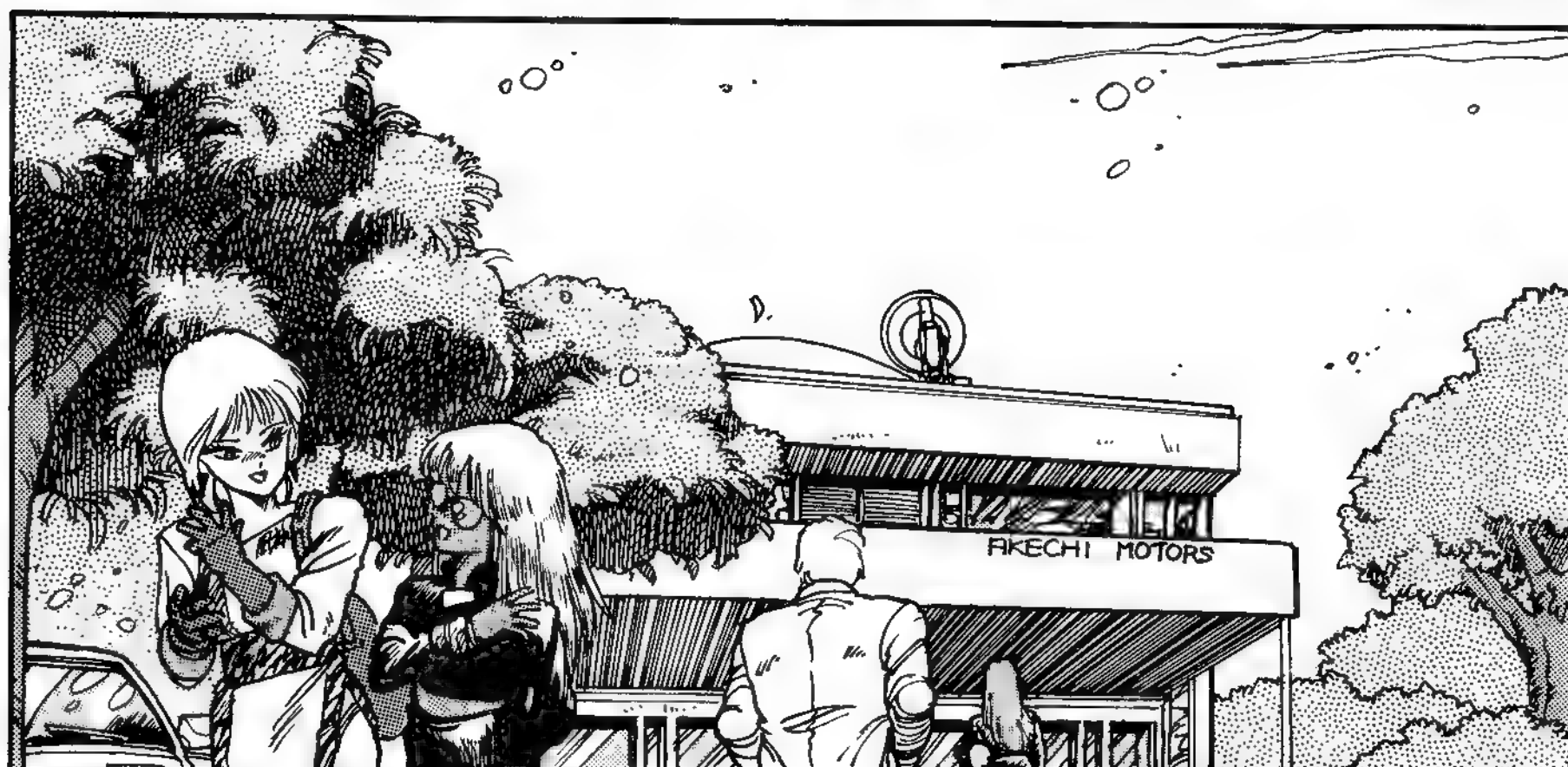
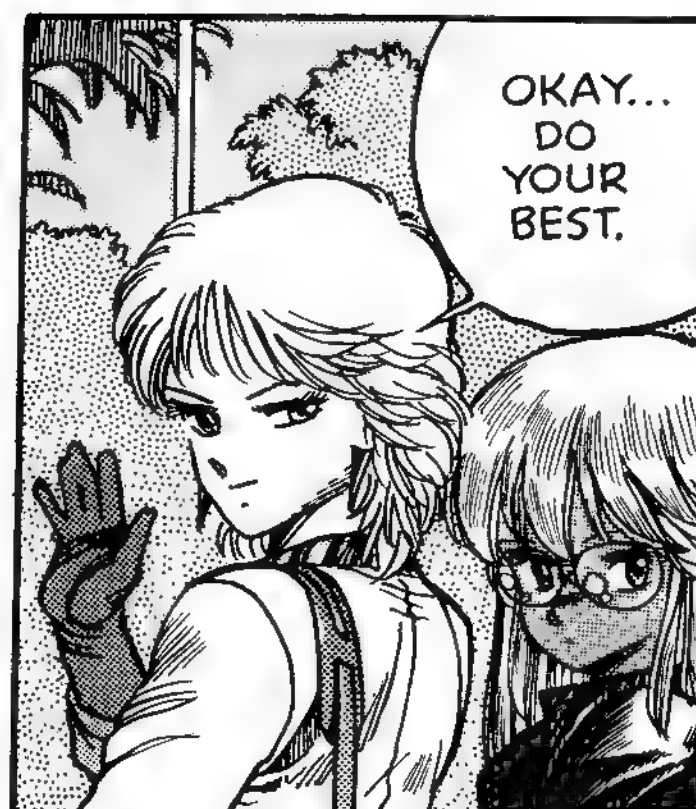
*cushion: here, a shock absorber mechanism in the exoskeleton.

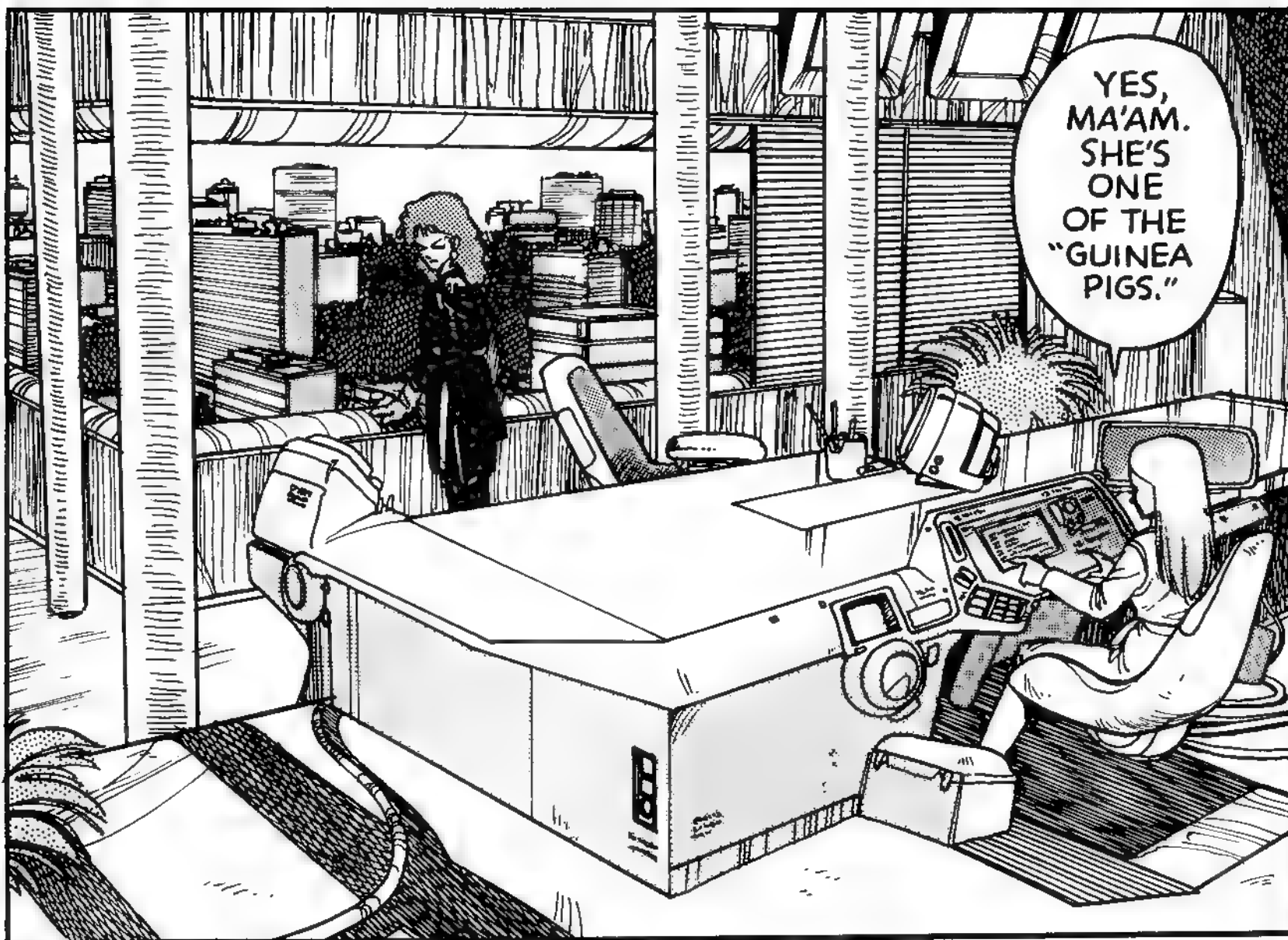
...WE'LL
TAKE CARE
OF THE
PAPERWORK
AND THE
ORDER
SET
THEN.

YEAH, WELL,
uh, IN THAT
CASE... I'LL CHECK
IT OUT RIGHT
AWAY. *Um*, WE
RUN REDUNDANT
DIAGNOSTICS,
SO IF YOU
COULD COME
BACK IN
ABOUT
THREE
HOURS...

...BUT
I
WANT
THIS
ONE!

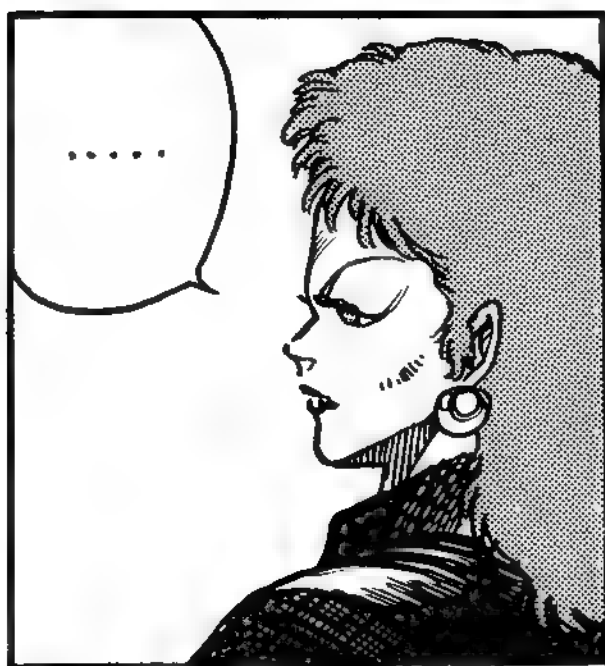
LOOK,
I HATE
TO KEEP
ON
LIKE A
BROKEN
RECORD...





YES, MA'AM. SHE'S ONE OF THE "GUINEA PIGS."

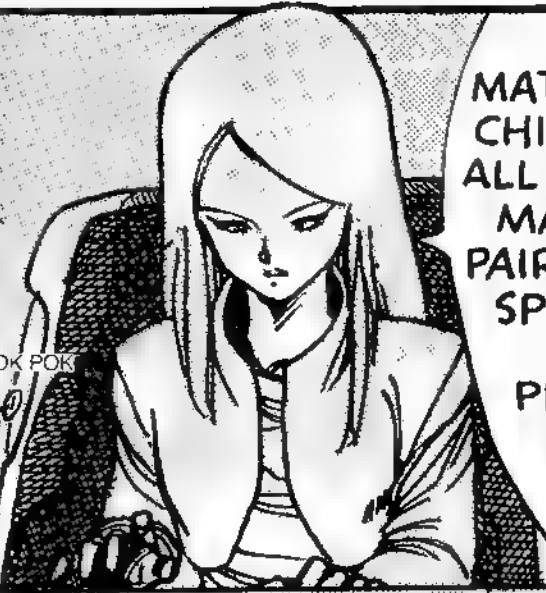
DEUNAN KNUTE?



.....

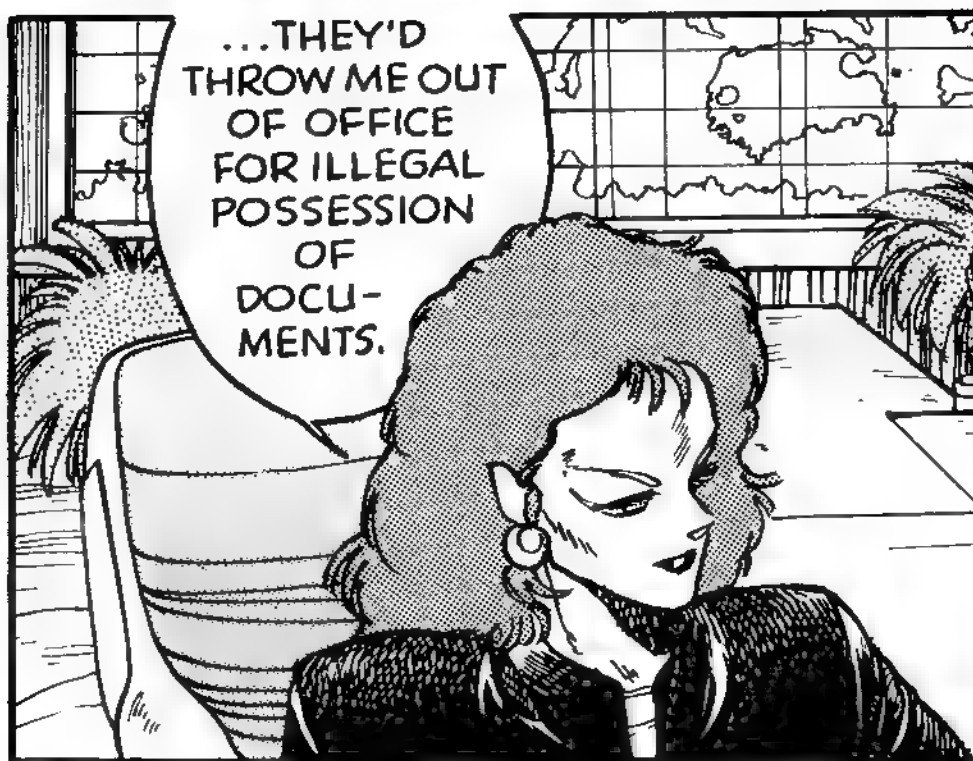
Hmm...WITH HER HERE, IT MEANS THAT ALL BUT TWO OF THE PEOPLE ON LIST ONE ARE NOW IN OLYMPUS.

*POK POK POK
*BOOP

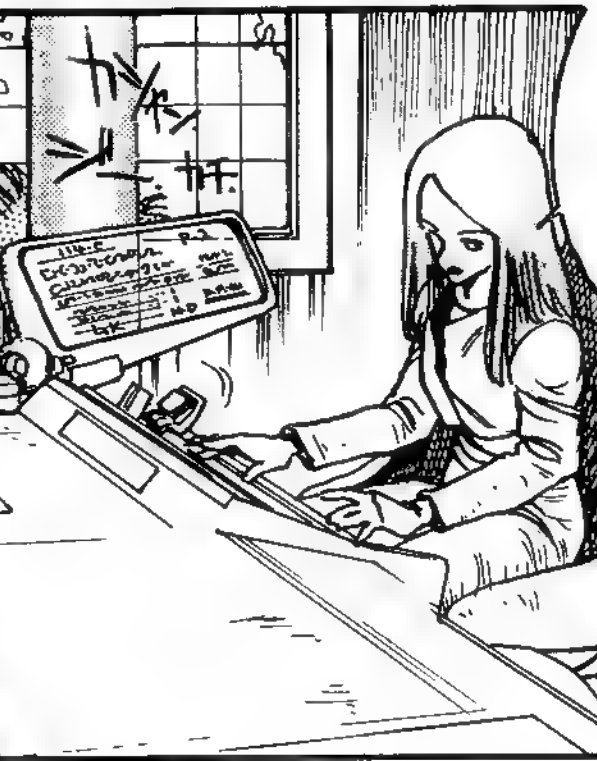


GENETIC MATERIAL, BIRTH, CHILD-REARING, ALL BY THE SAME MALE-FEMALE PAIRING. PHYSICAL SPECS HUMAN, BUT HER PERSONALITY PROFILE IS JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT...

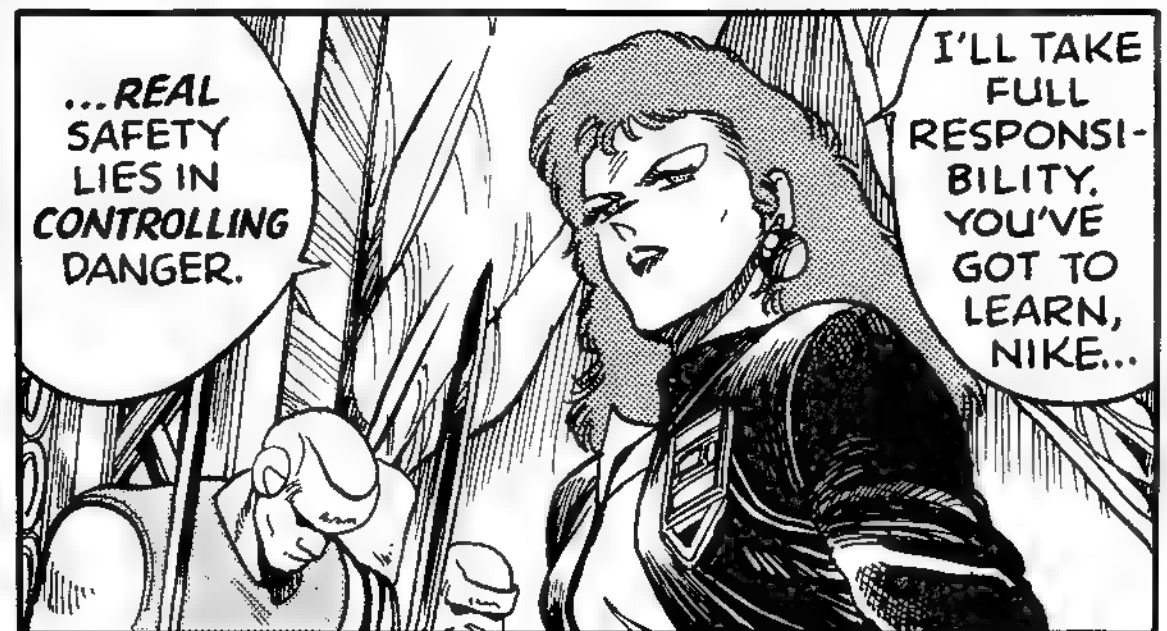
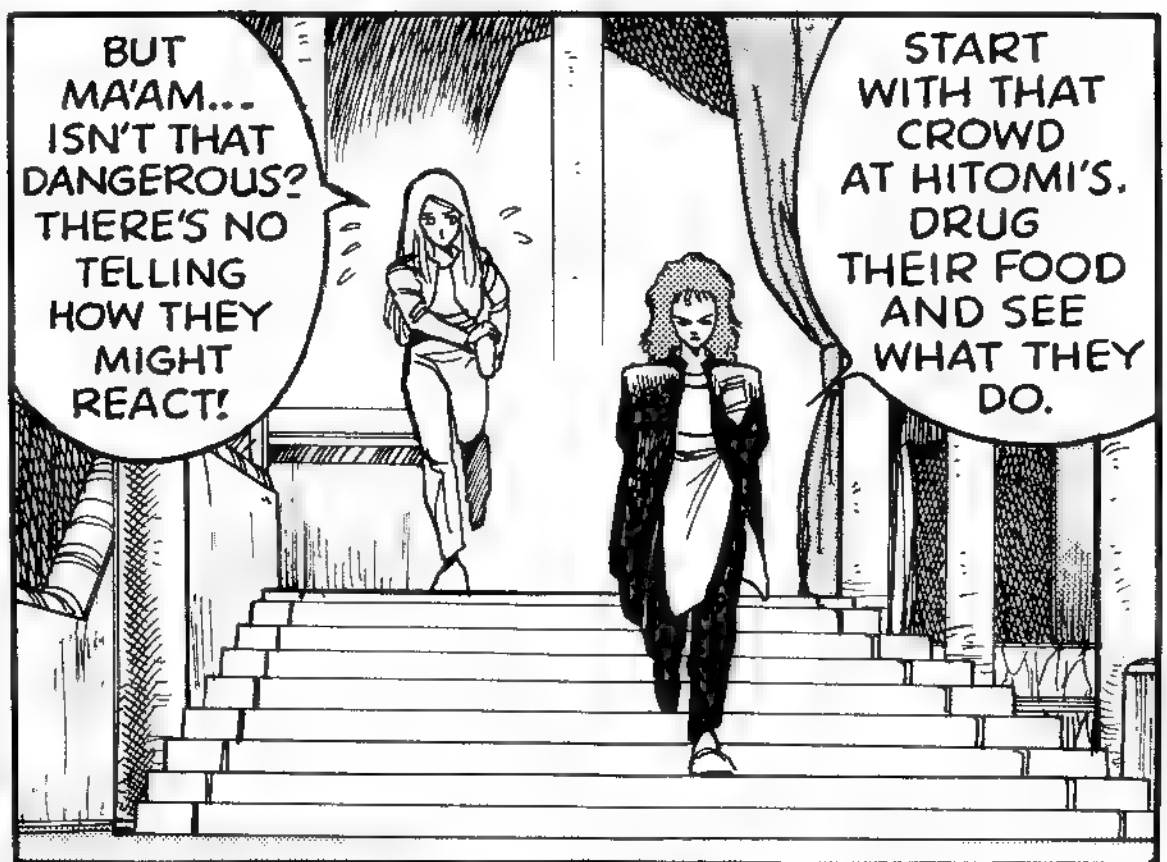
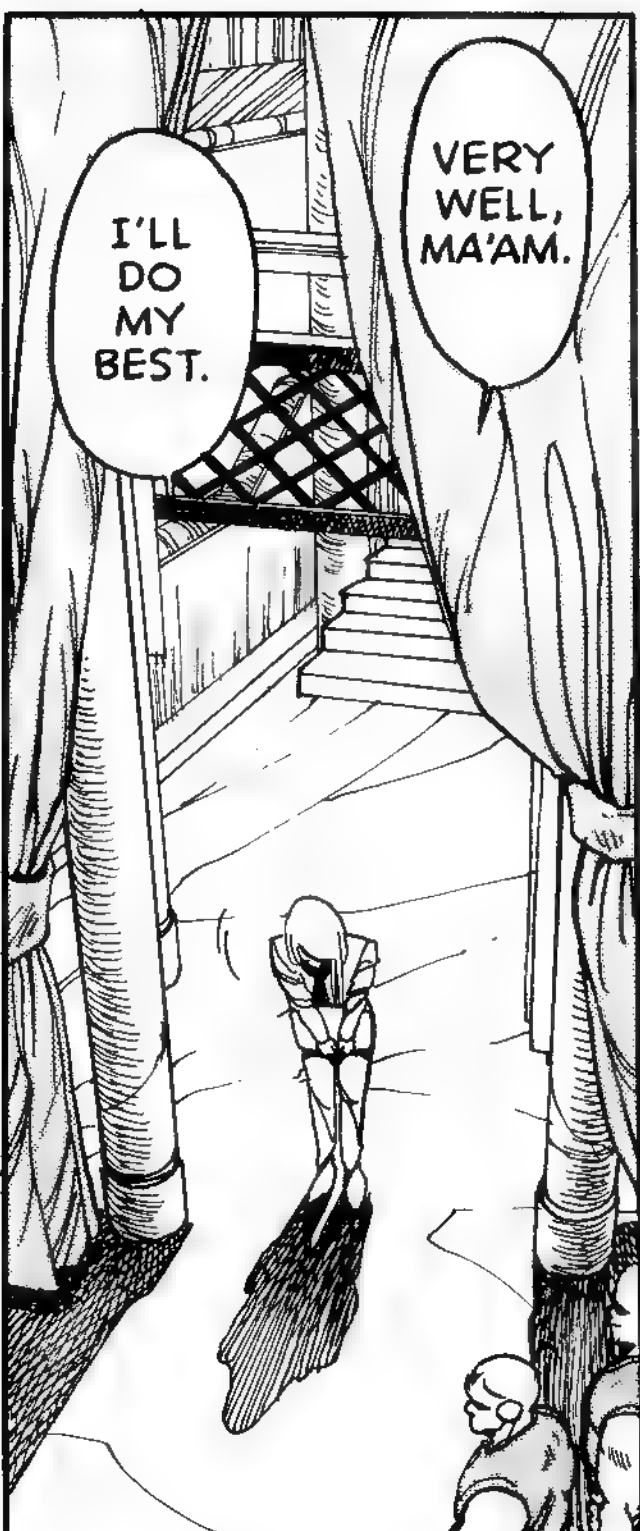
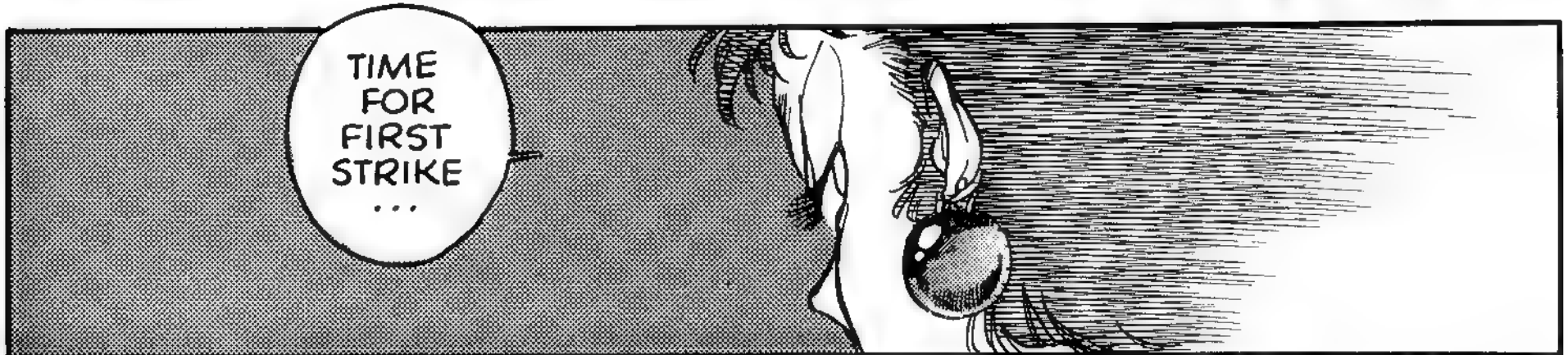
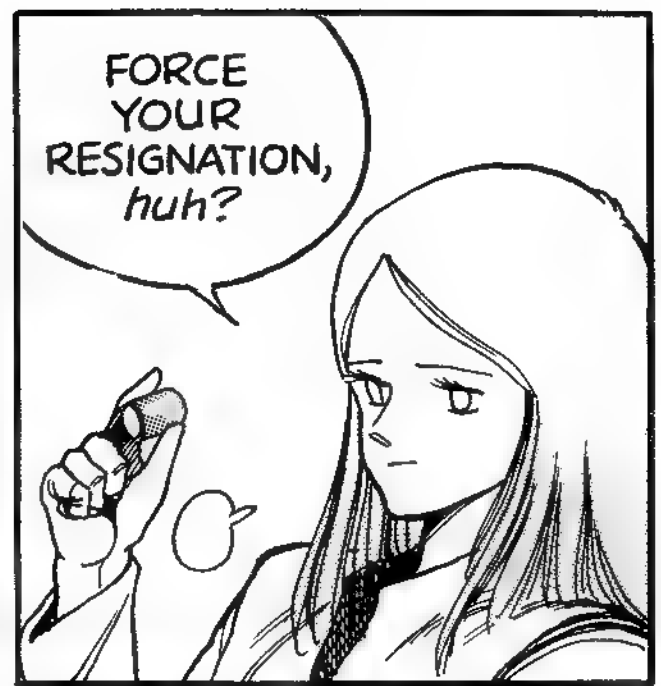
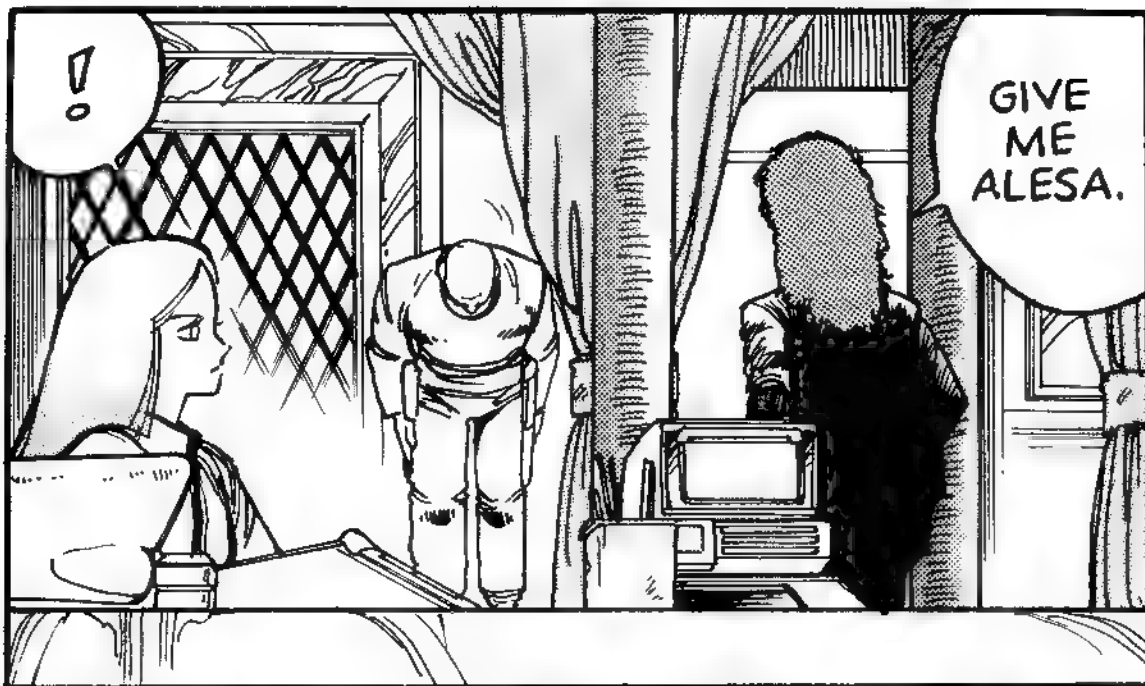
*FX KOHK VEEEP TKTK

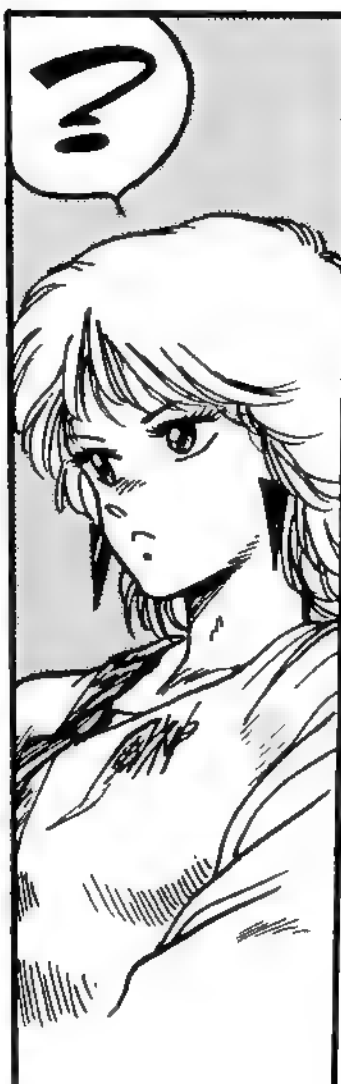
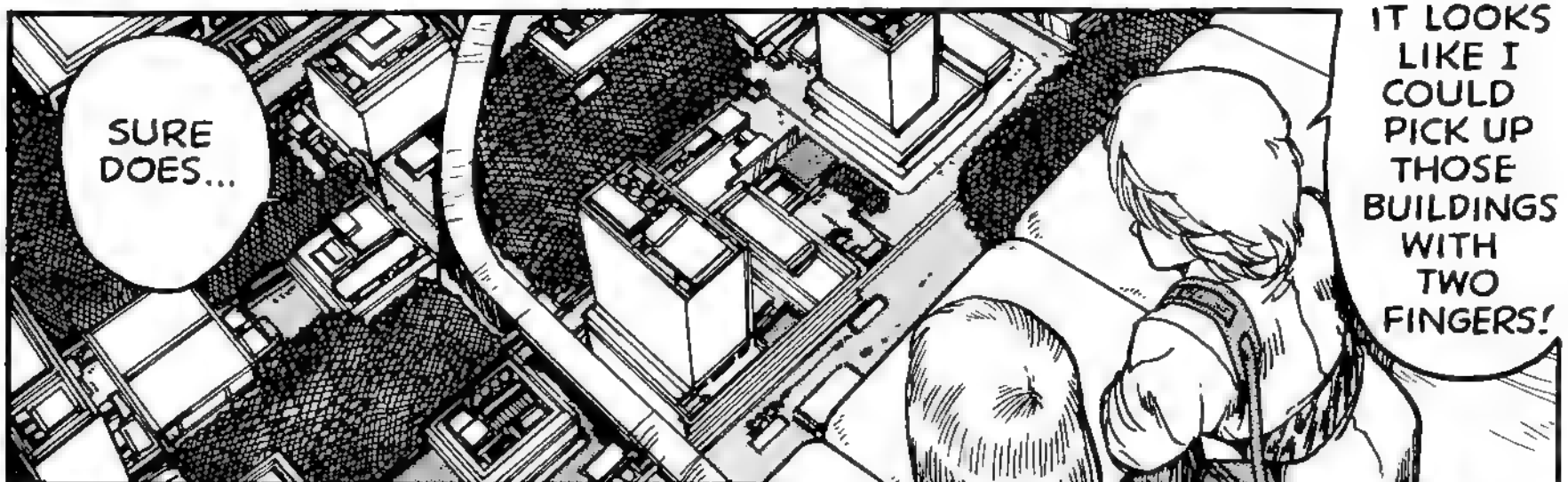
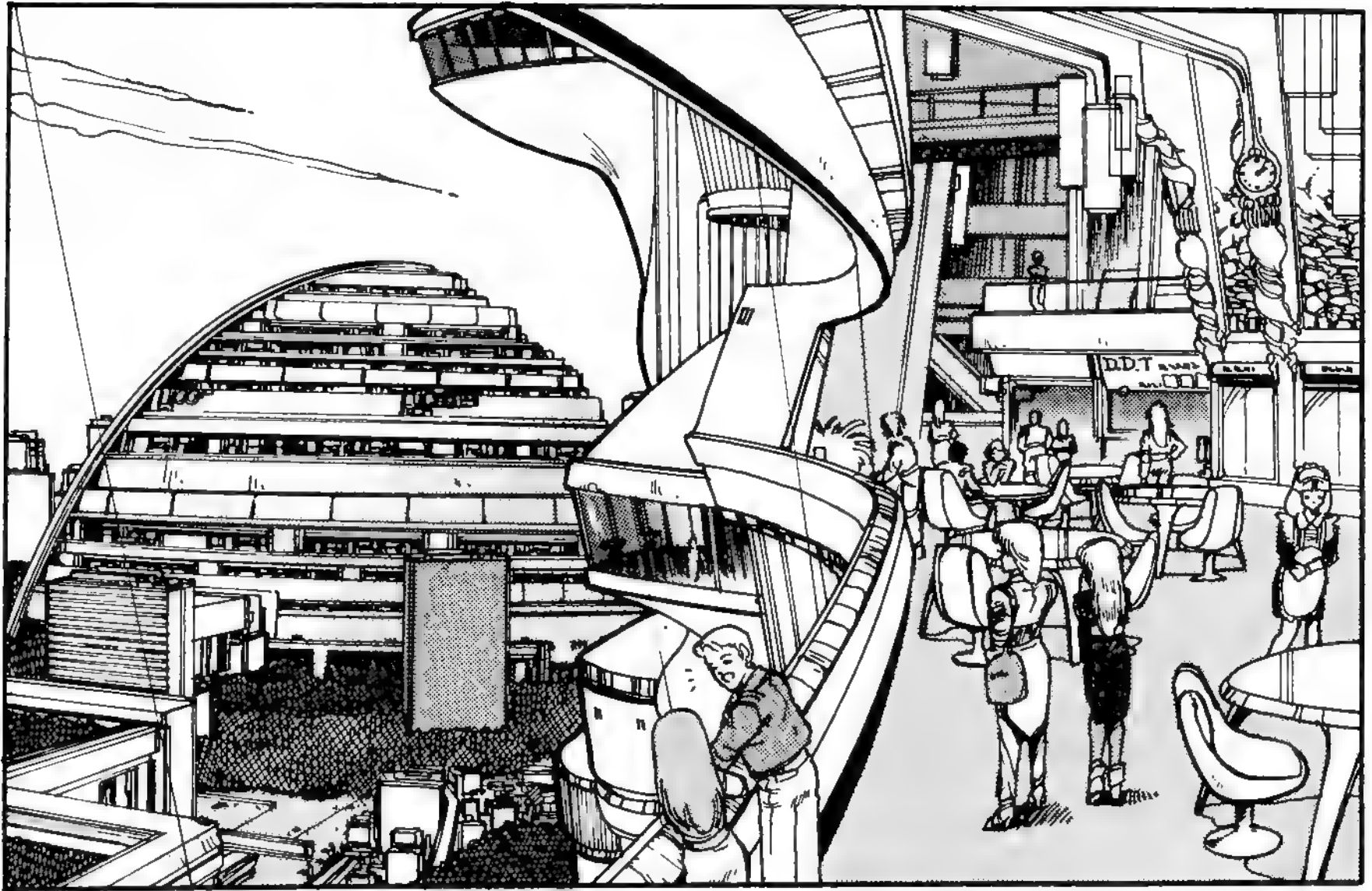


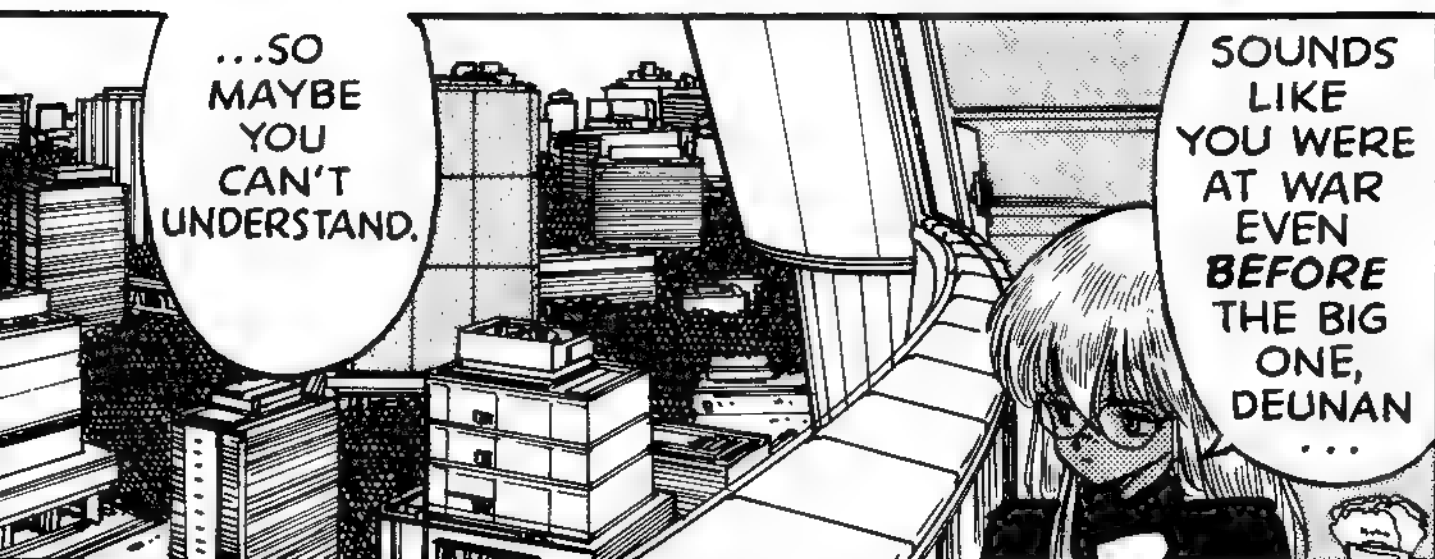
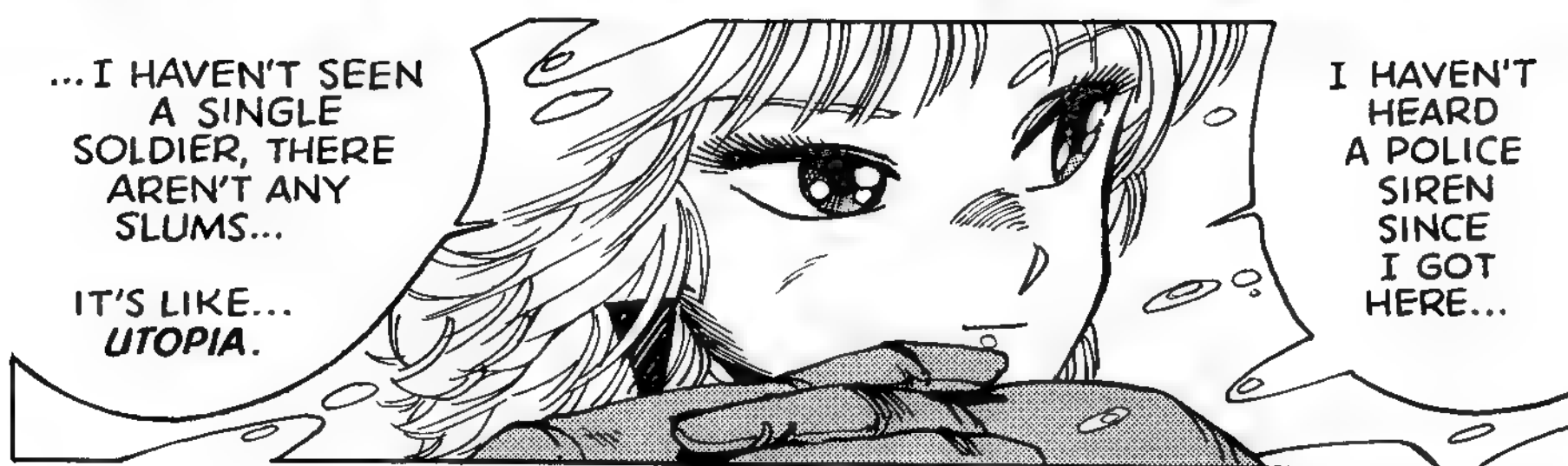
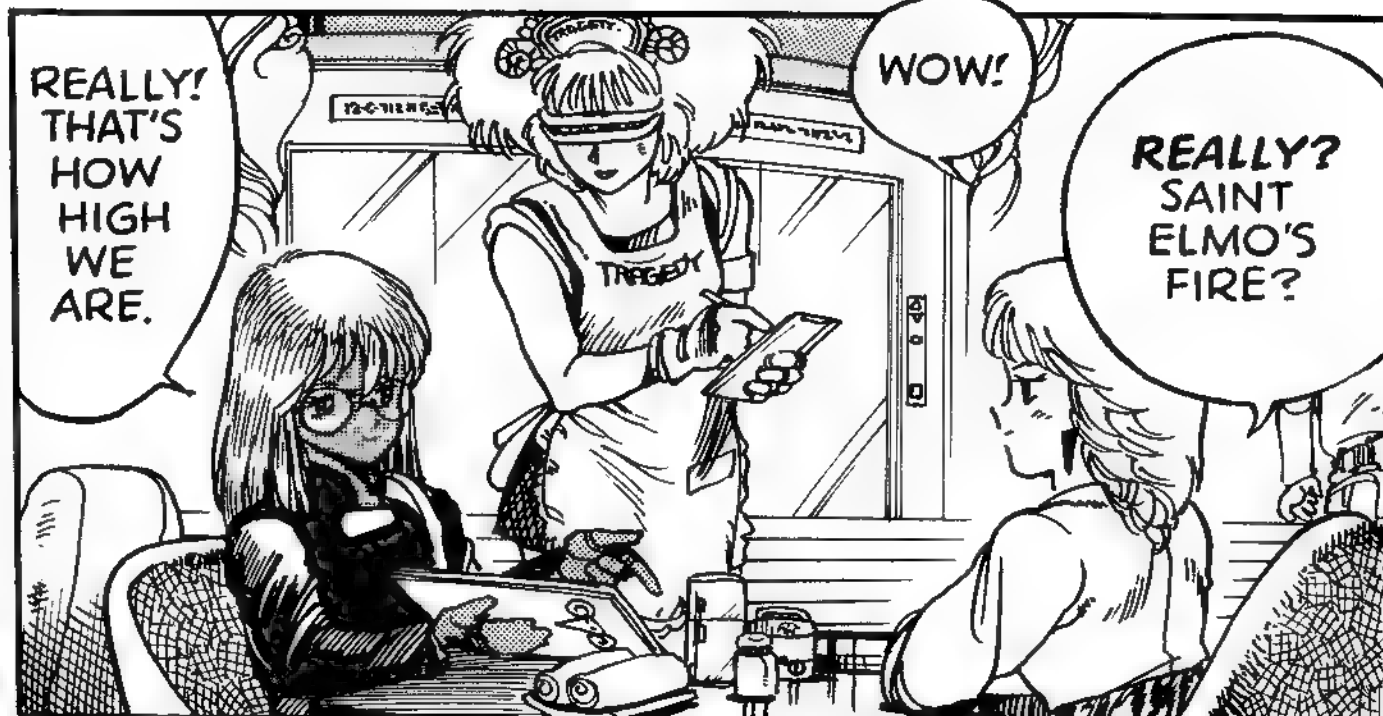
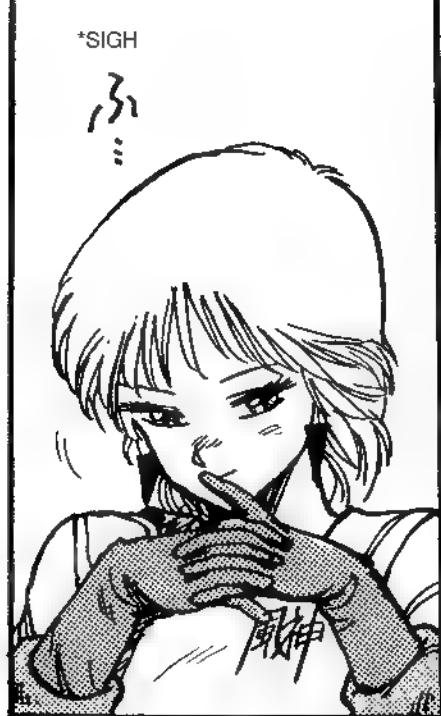
...THEY'D THROW ME OUT OF OFFICE FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF DOCUMENTS.

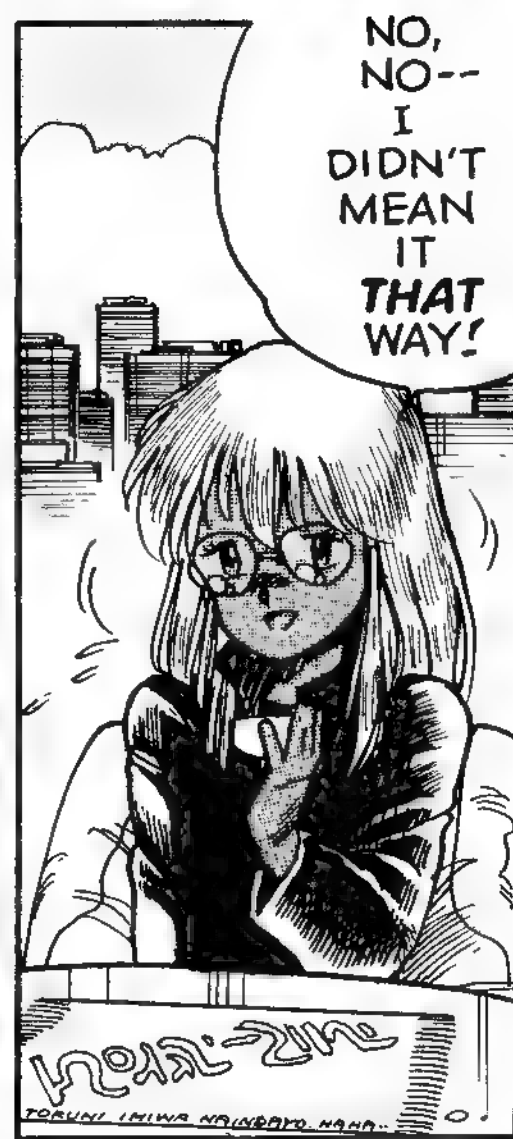
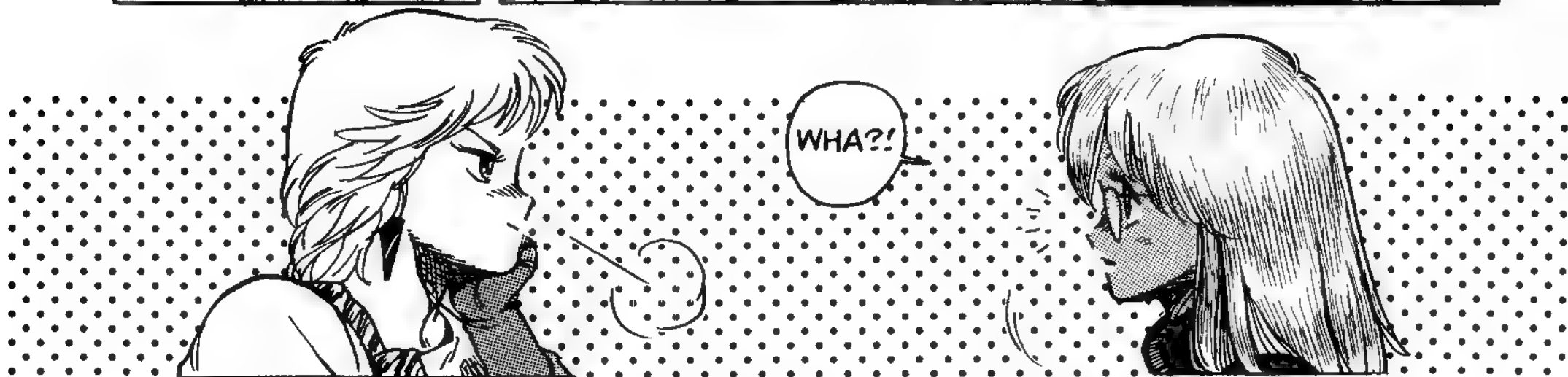
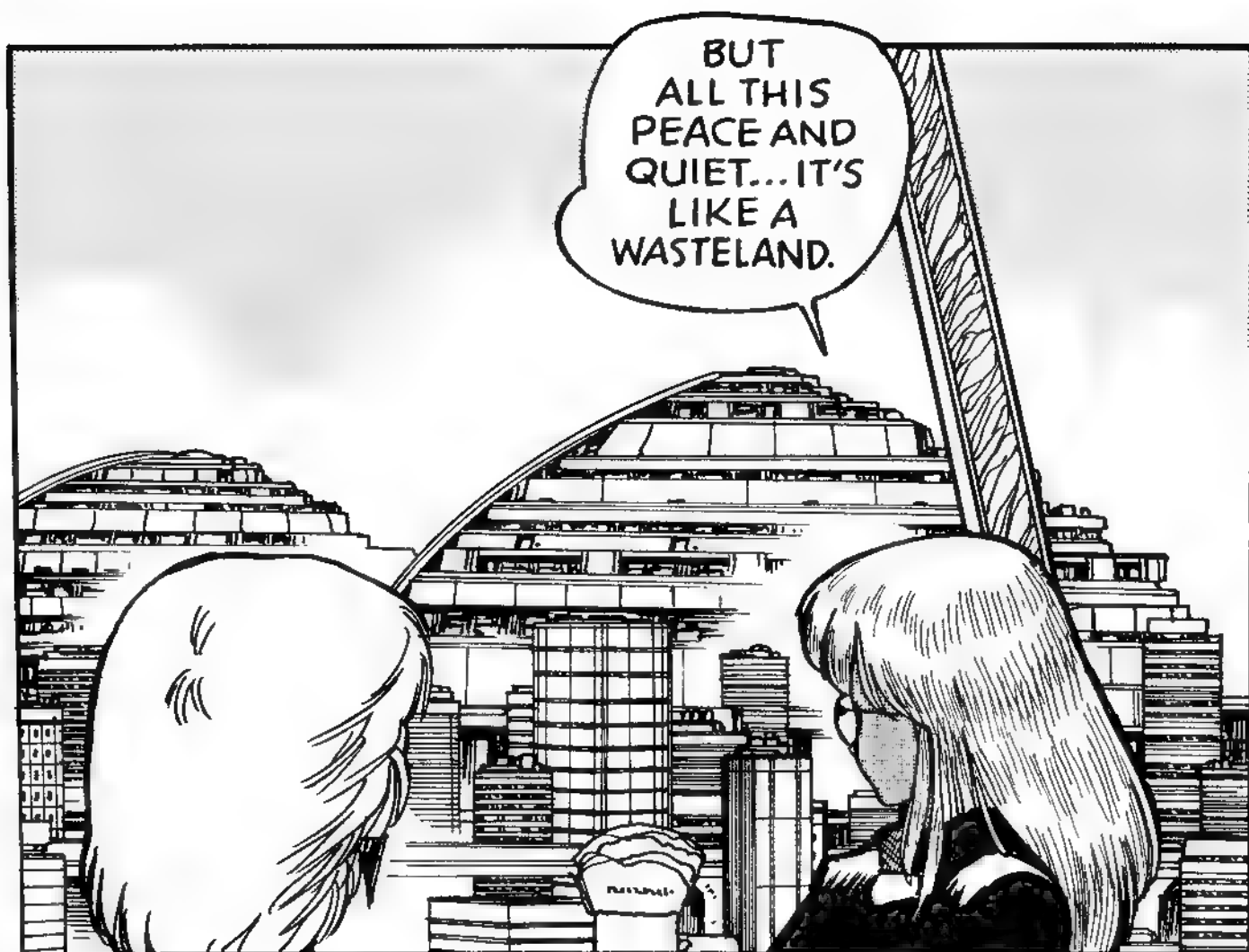


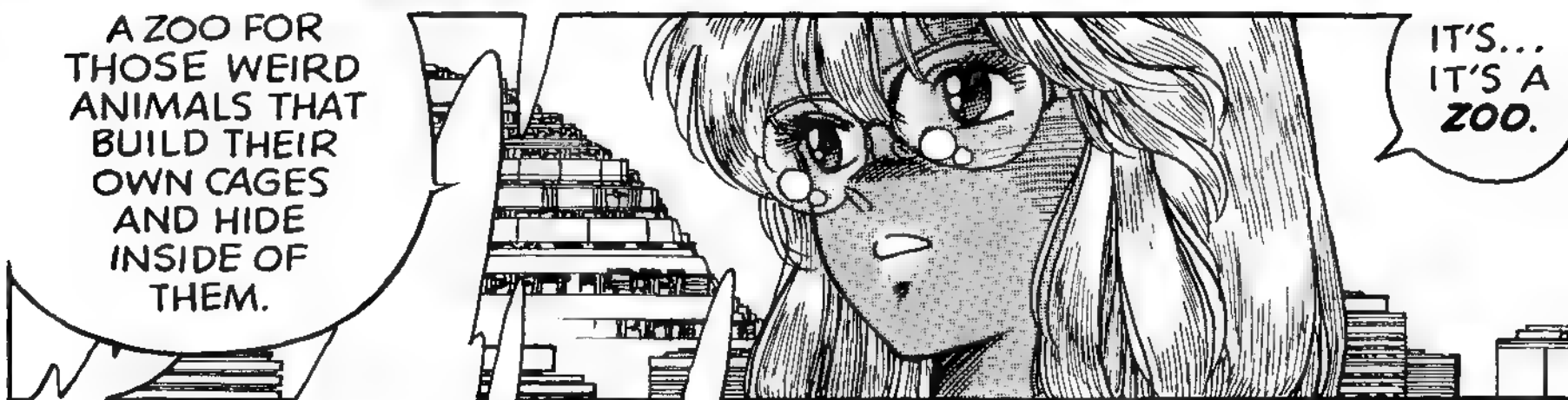
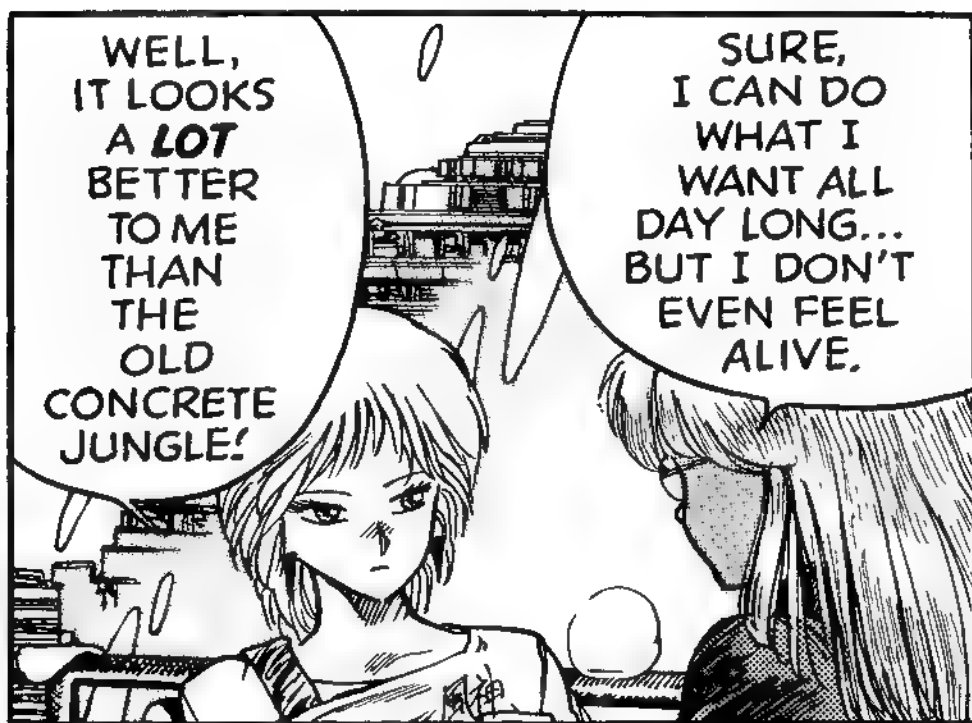
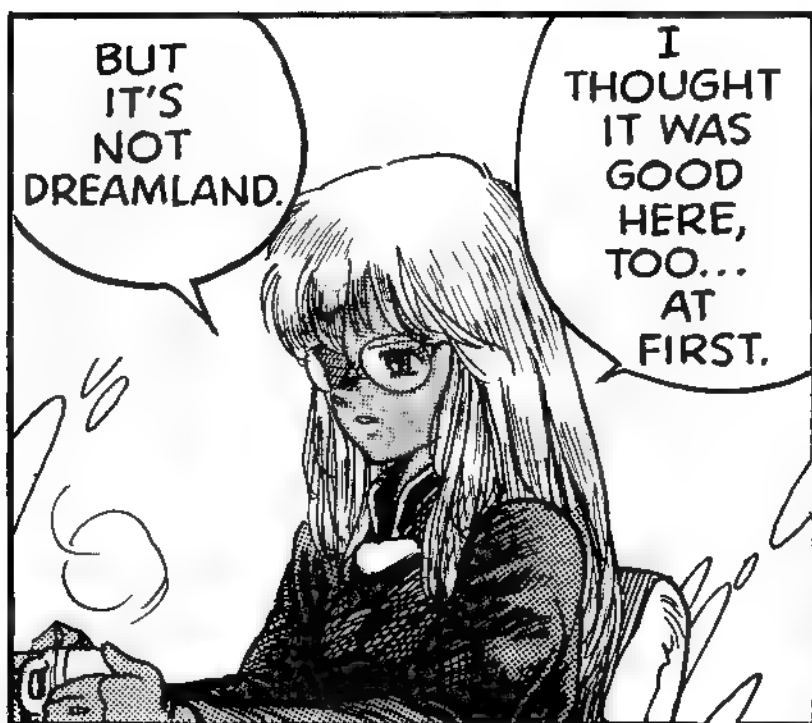
IF ONLY WE COULD GO PUBLIC WITH THIS DATA...











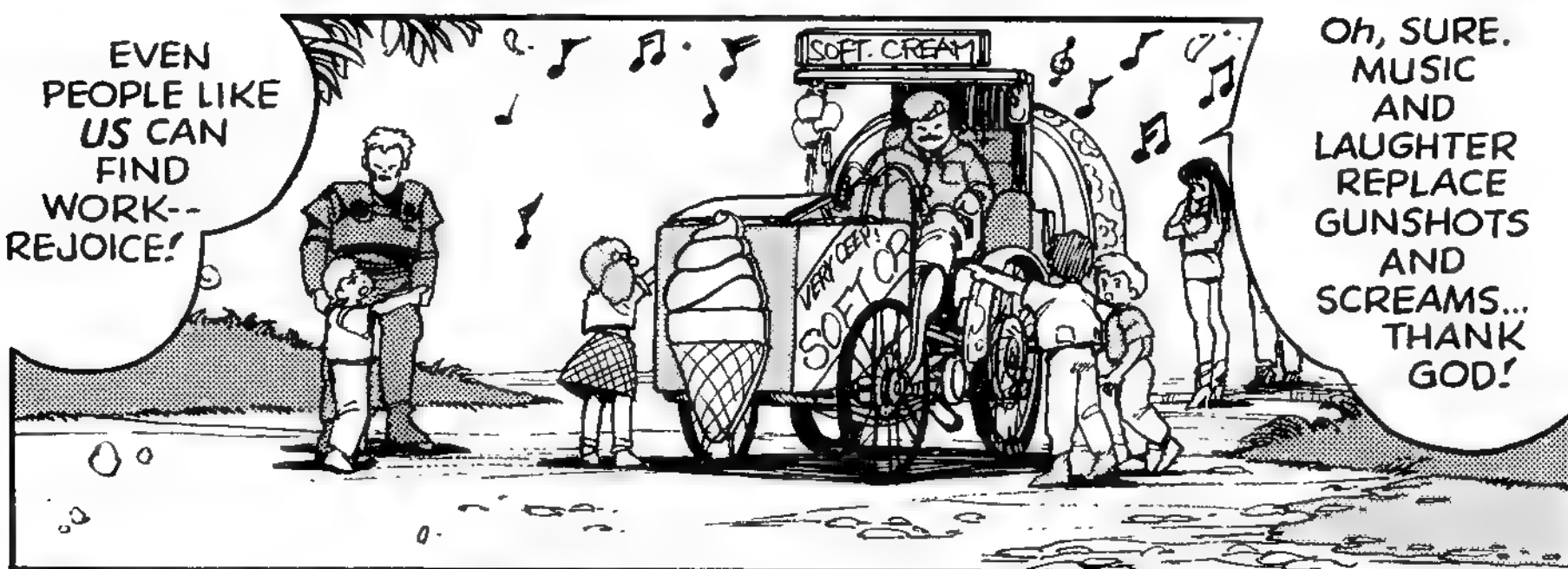




STILL,
I **DO**
WONDER IF
IT'S GOOD TO
BE SO LAID
BACK. YOU
THINK IT'S AN
OVERREACTION
TO THE
WAR?

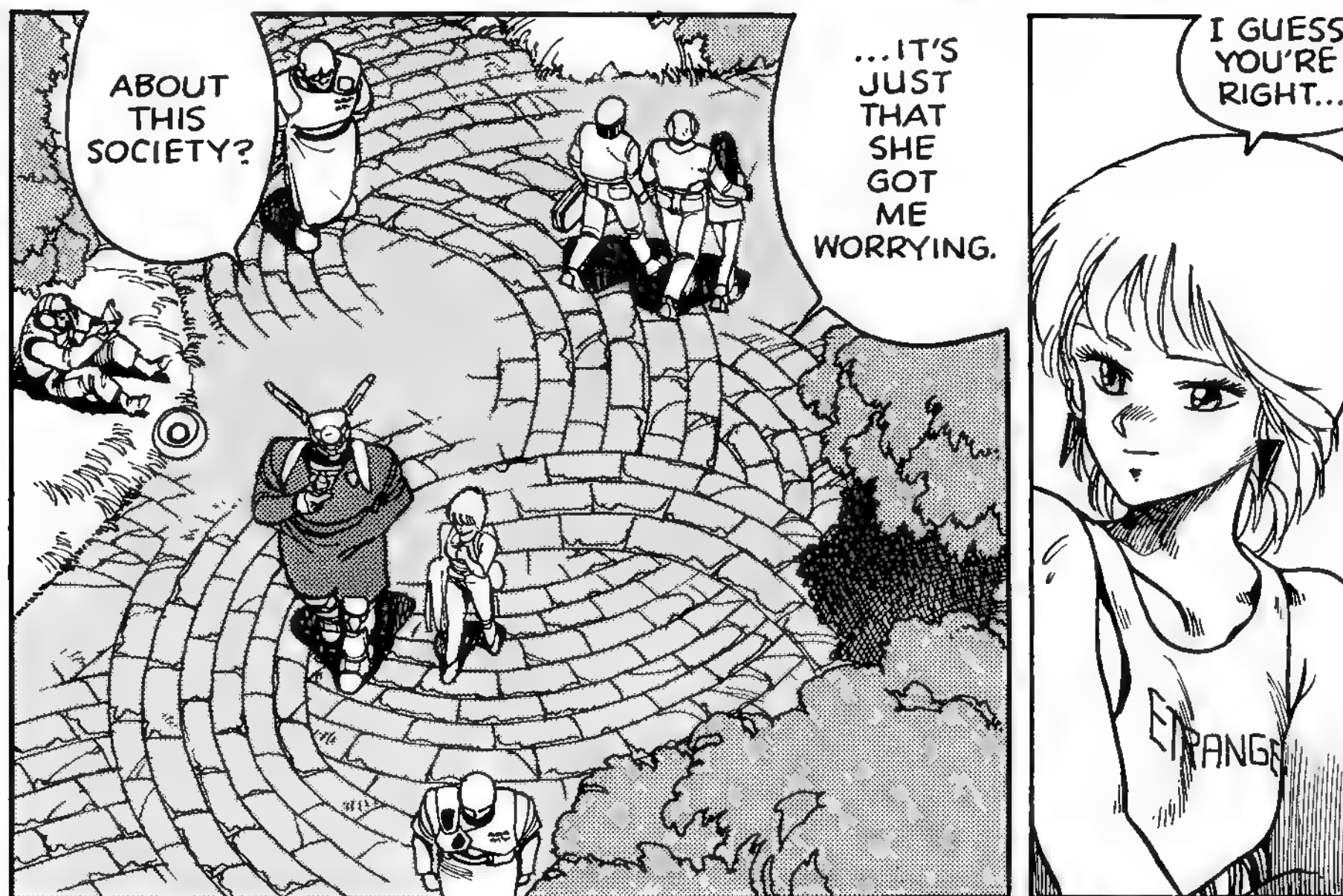
Ah, THE
GRASS
IS ALWAYS
GREENER.
COMPLAINING
IS A LUXURY.
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
HER...

*FX WAAAA WAAAA



EVEN
PEOPLE LIKE
US CAN
FIND
WORK--
REJOICE!

Oh, SURE.
MUSIC
AND
LAUGHTER
REPLACE
GUNSHOTS
AND
SCREAMS...
THANK
GOD!

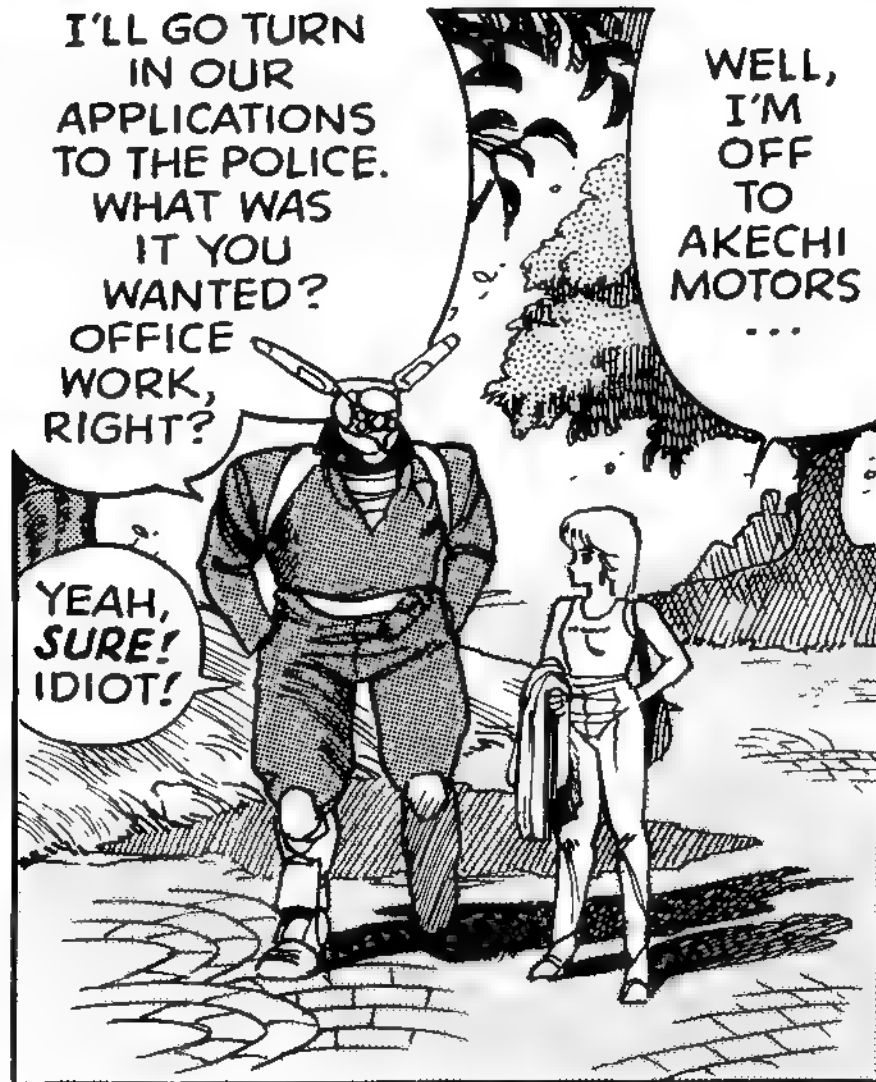


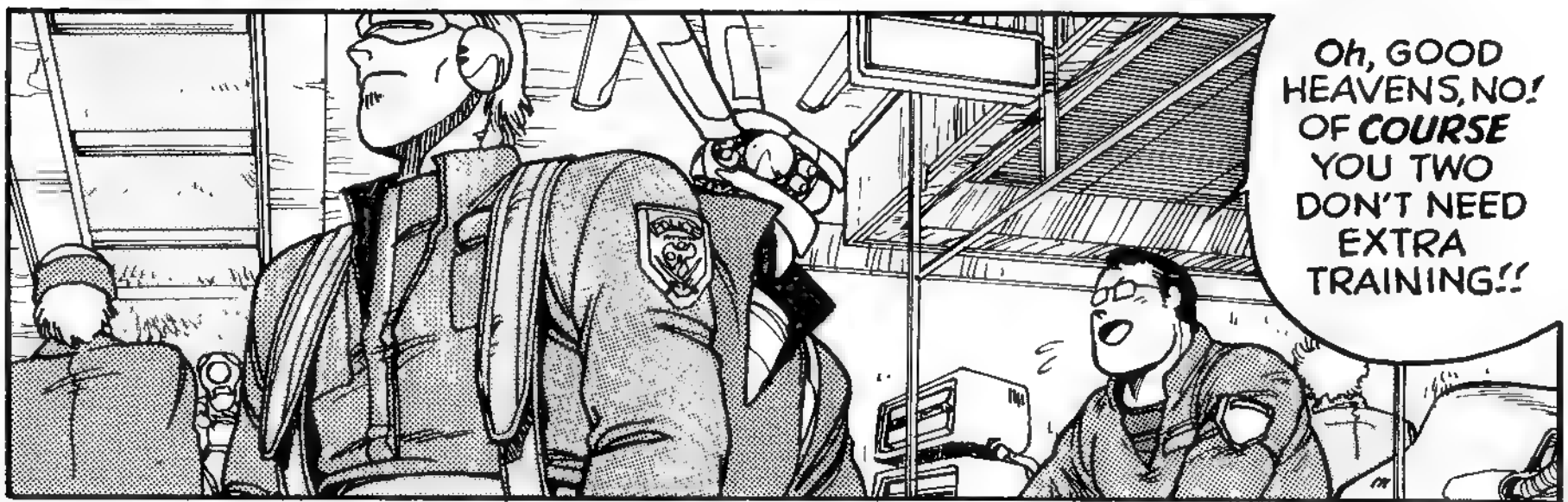
ABOUT
THIS
SOCIETY?

...IT'S
JUST
THAT
SHE
GOT
ME
WORRYING.

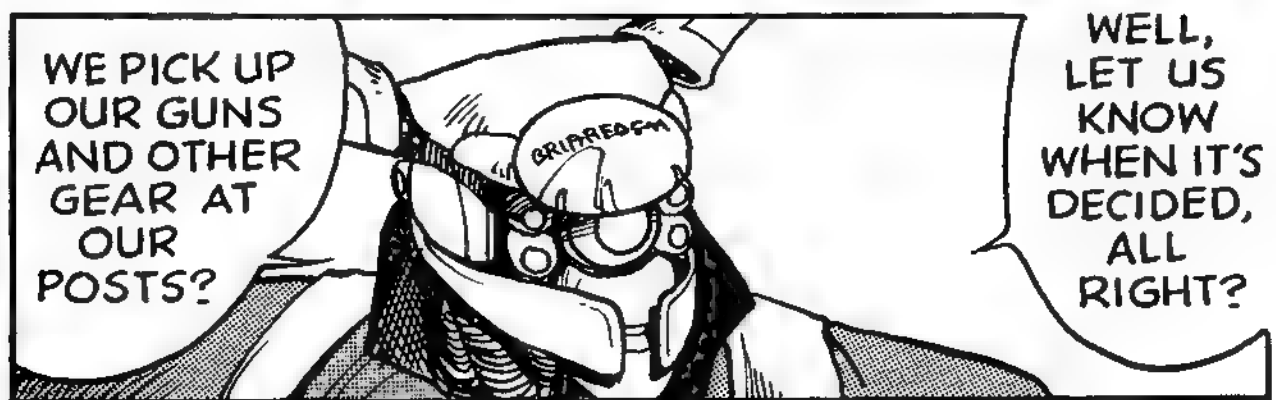
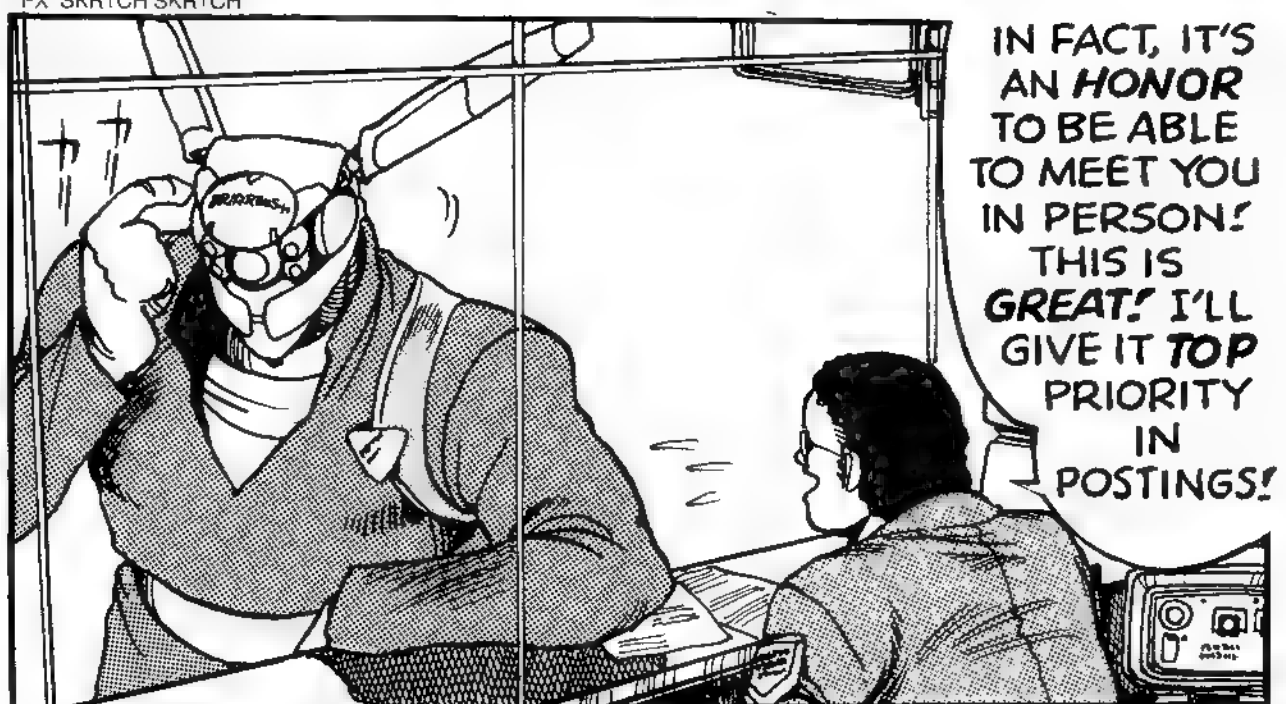
I GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT...

ETRANGER





*FX SKRTCH SKRTCH



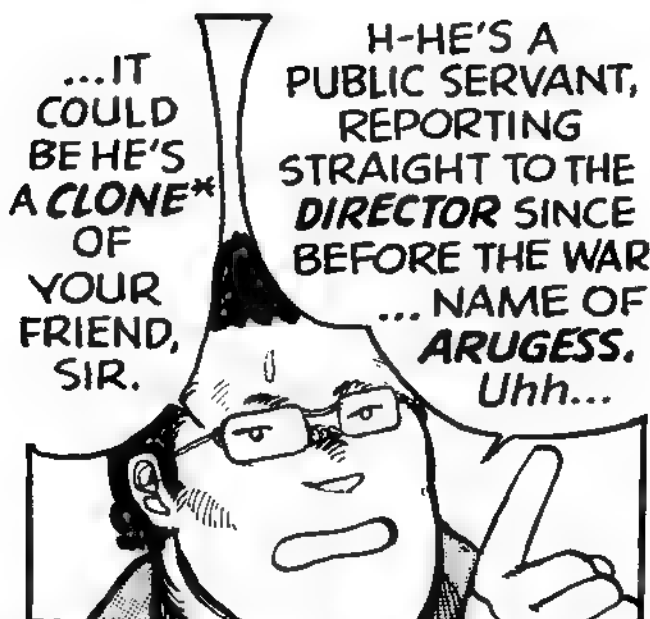




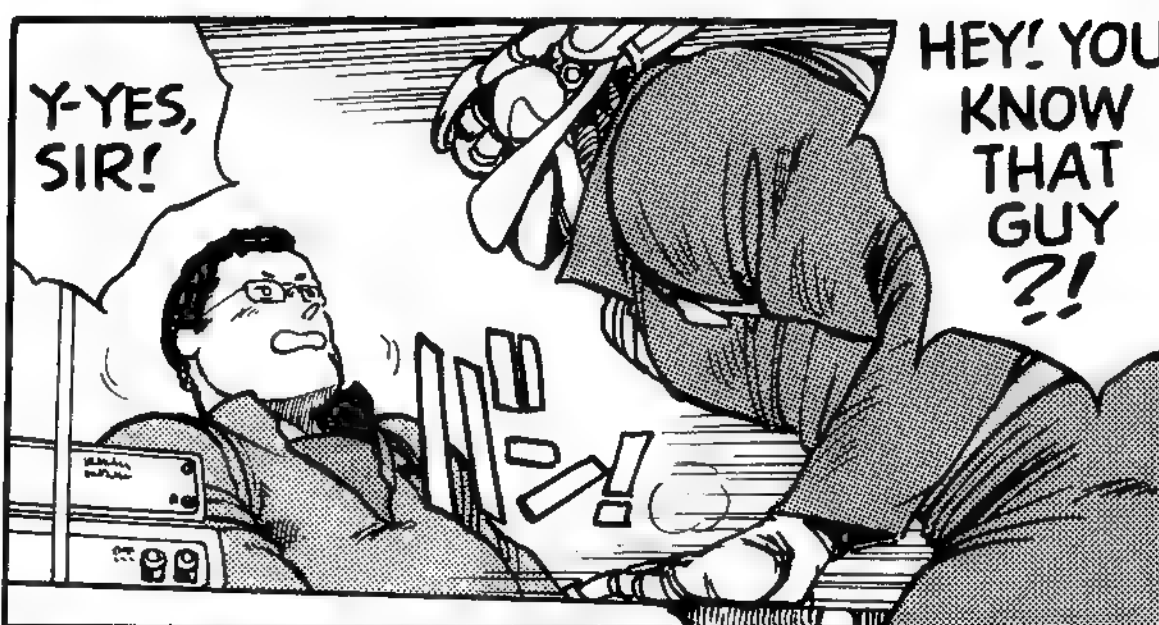
LOOK, I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T WORK HERE. IF YOU'VE GOT BUSINESS WITH ME, YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT IT ON THE WAY TO MY CAR.



CUT THE CRAP! IS THIS SOME ROUTINE YOU RUN WITH THE ROOKIES?

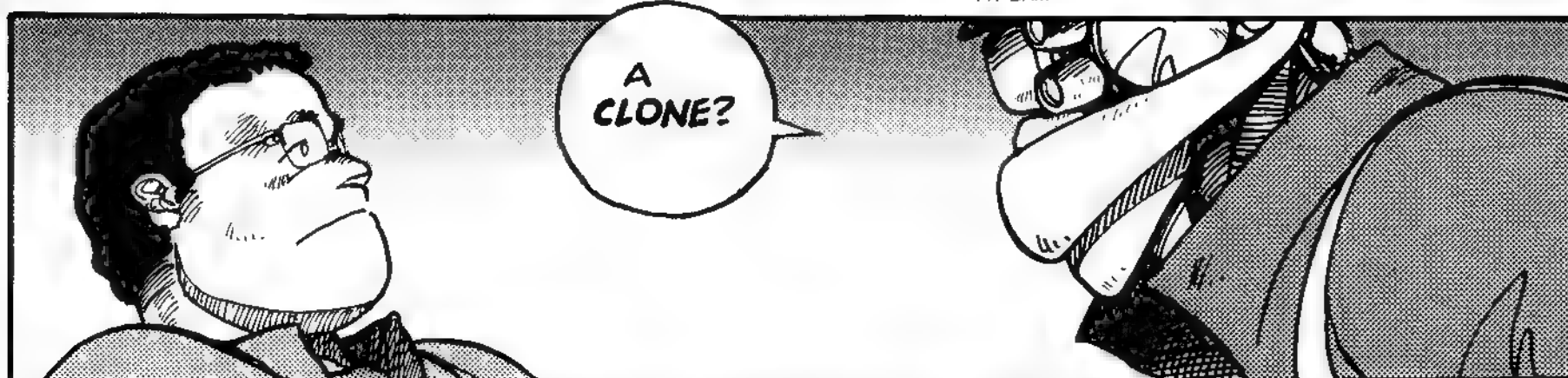


H-HE'S A PUBLIC SERVANT, REPORTING STRAIGHT TO THE DIRECTOR SINCE BEFORE THE WAR ... NAME OF ARUGESS. Uhh...



Y-YES, SIR!

*FX BAM

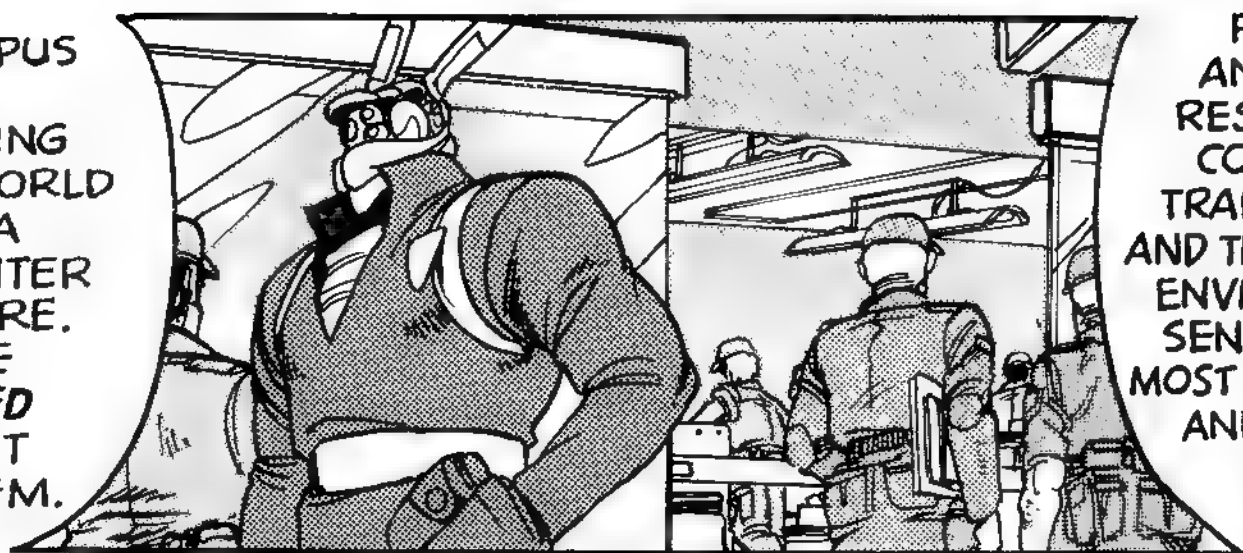


IF YOU COUNT THE UNITS WITH MACROMOLECULAR PROCESSED COMPONENTS, A GOOD EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE POPULATION ARE CLONES.

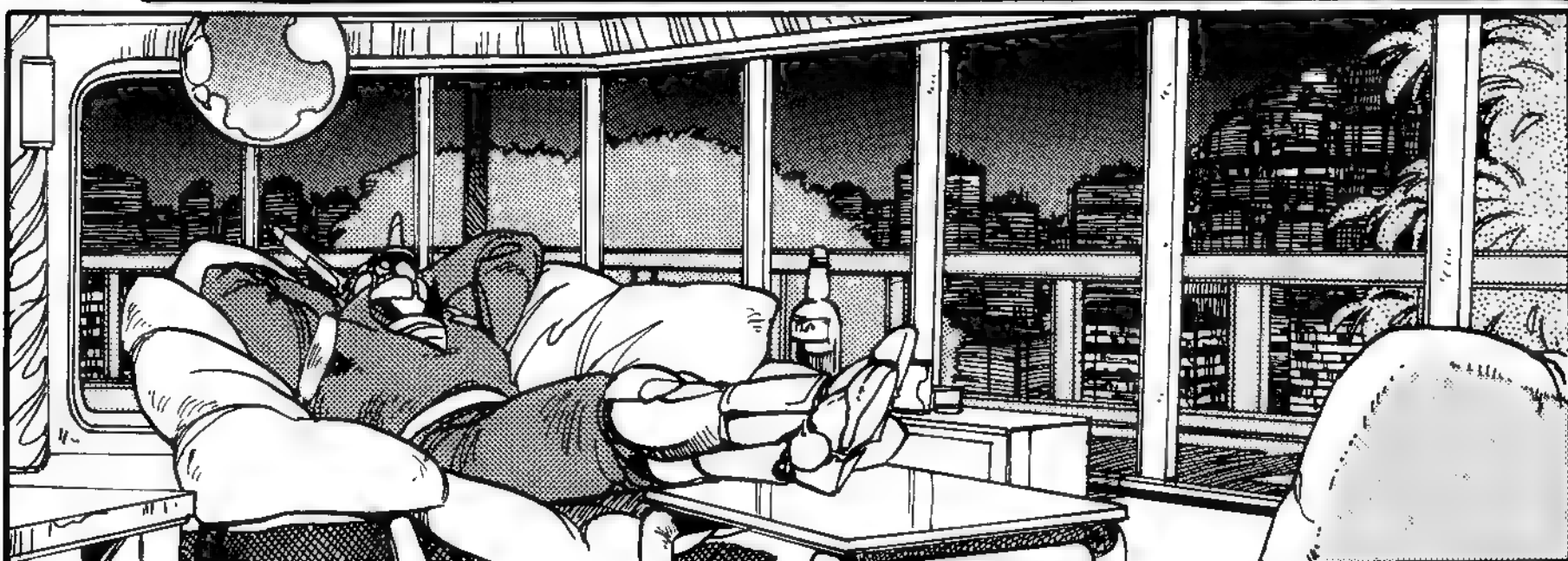
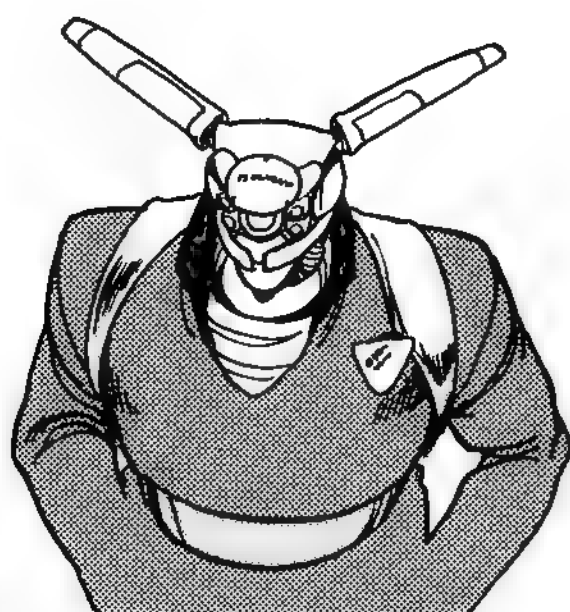
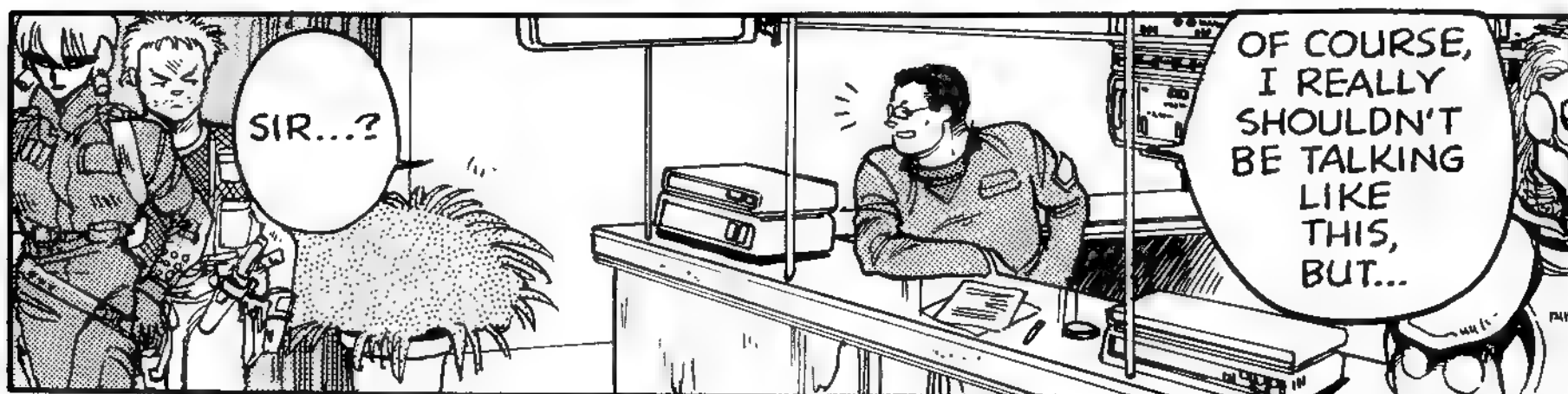


YES, SIR. A HUMAN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED FROM A GENETIC PATTERN TAKEN FROM A SPECIFIC DONOR. WE CALL CLONES WITH GENETIC MATERIAL FROM MULTIPLE MOTHER-SOURCES **HYBRIDS*** WHEN THEY GO THROUGH SPECIAL PROCESSING, WE CALL THEM **BIOROIDS**.

OLYMPUS
IS
LEADING
THE WORLD
TO A
BRIGHTER
FUTURE.
WE
NEED
A LOT
OF THEM.



PERSONALITY
AND EMOTIONAL
RESPONSES CAN BE
CONDITIONED BY
TRAINING, EDUCATION,
AND THE CHILD-REARING
ENVIRONMENT... IN A
SENSE, THEY'RE THE
MOST COMPACT, COMPLEX,
AND SOPHISTICATED
ROBOTS
IMAGINABLE.

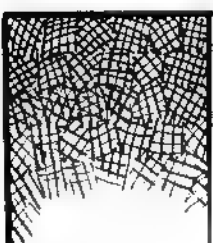




SHE SAID WE'RE
ANIMALS THAT
BUILD OUR OWN
CAGES AND
HIDE IN THEM...



BUT
DEUNAN...
EVEN **PEOPLE**
ARE JUST
TOOLS OF
THE
SPIRIT...



EIGHTY
PERCENT
OF THE
POPULATION
...

UTOPIA...?

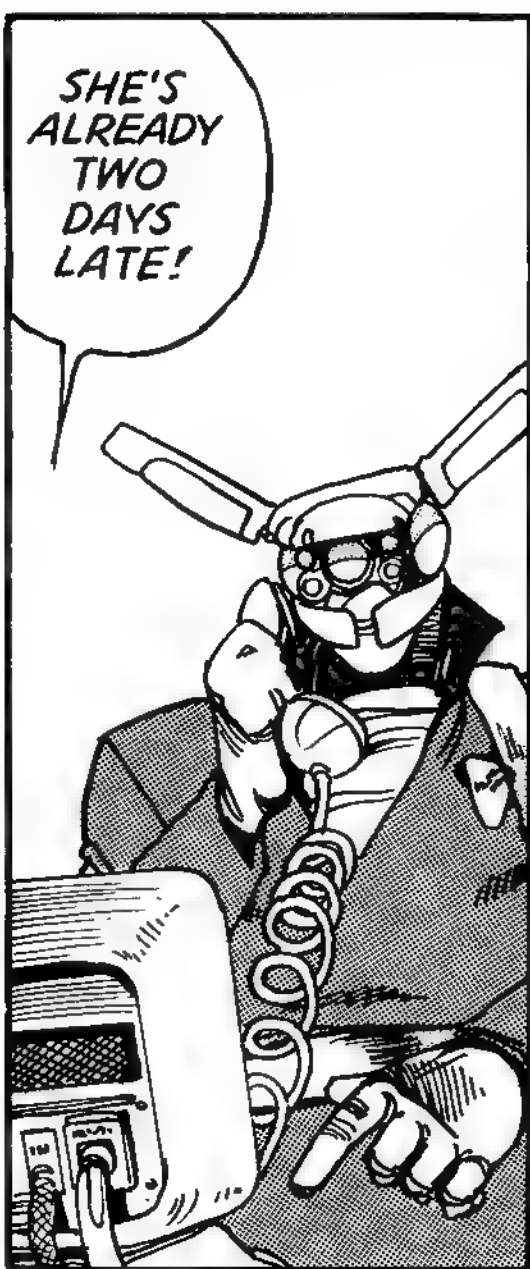
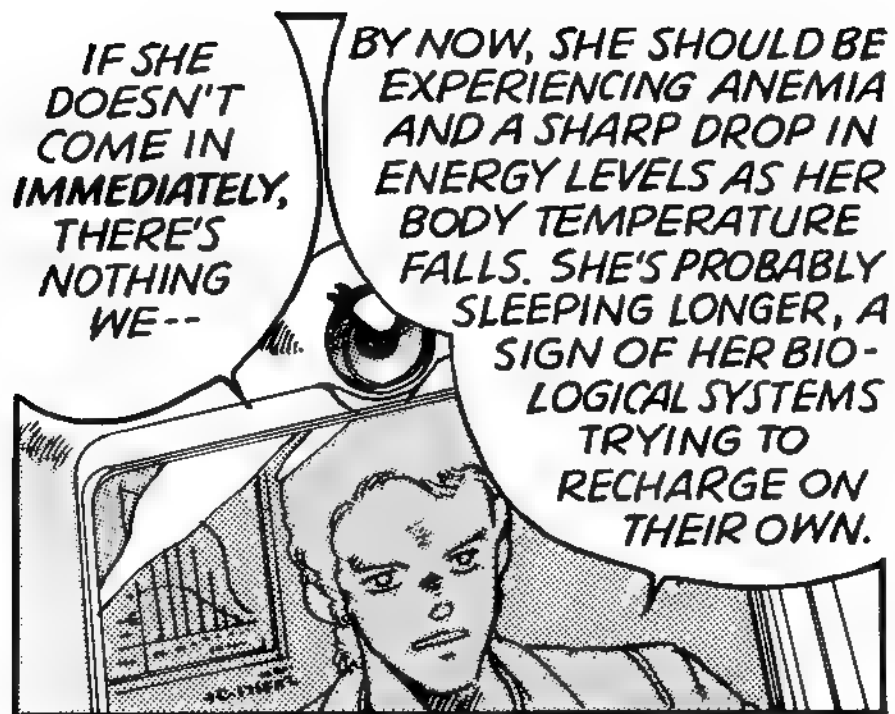


COULD
YOU GIVE
HER A
MES-
SAGE?

THIS
IS THE
BCSC*

SORRY,
HITOMI'S
NOT
IN,
NOW...

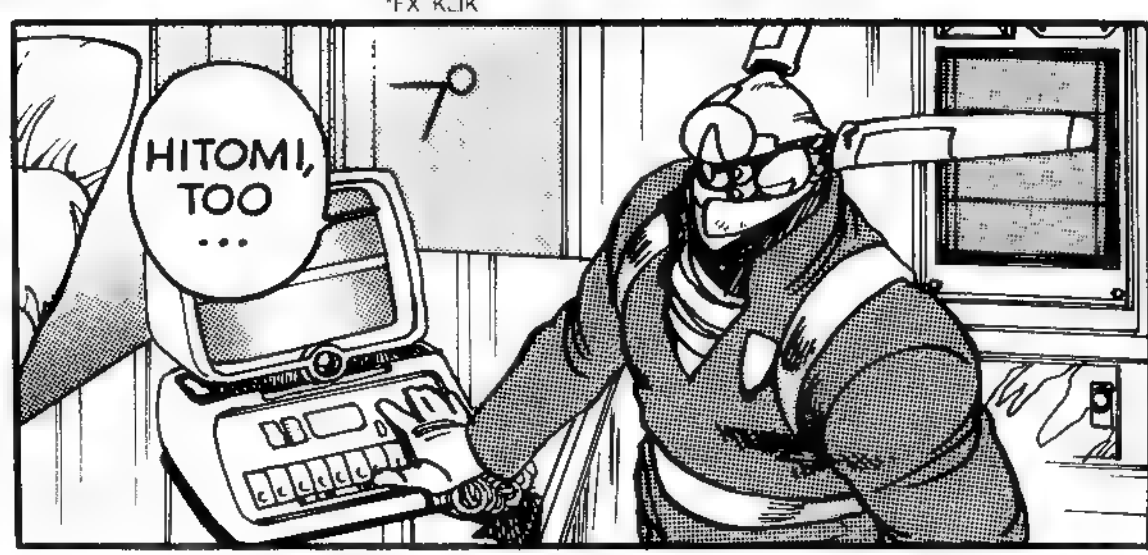
*BCSC = BIOCONTROL SERVICE CENTER



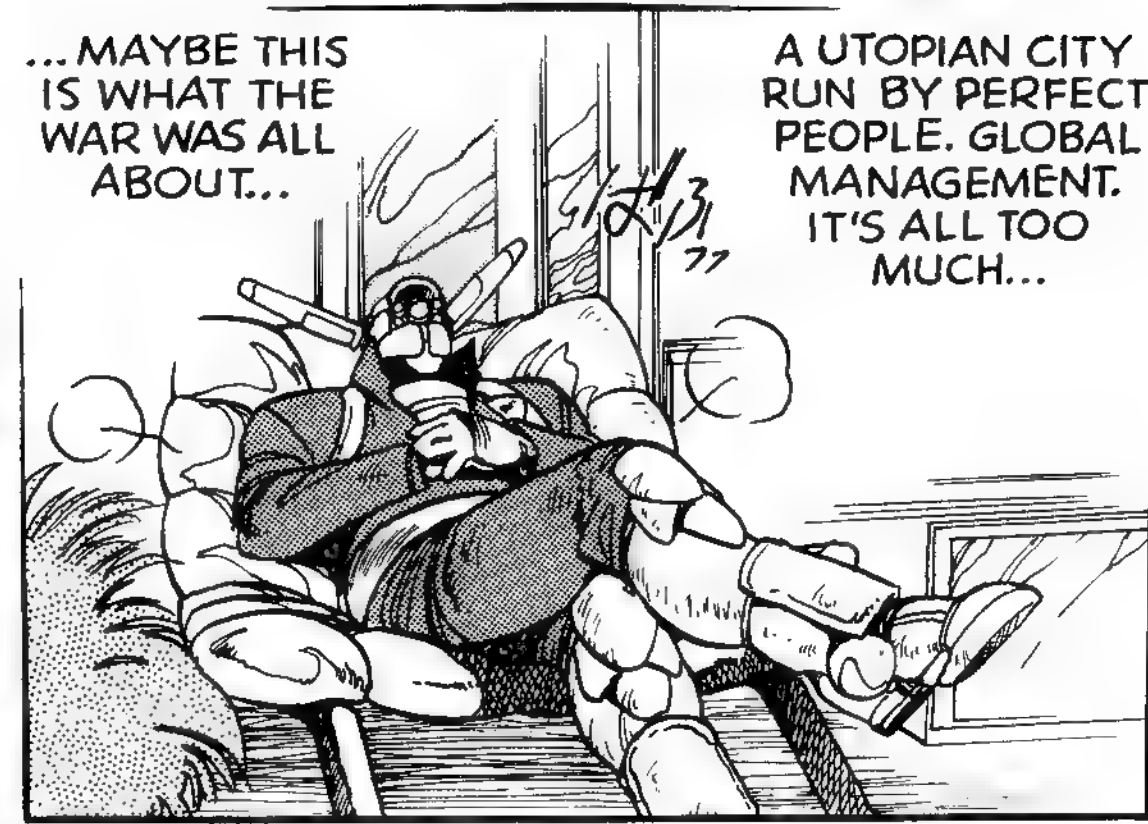
*FX KLIK



*FX WHFF



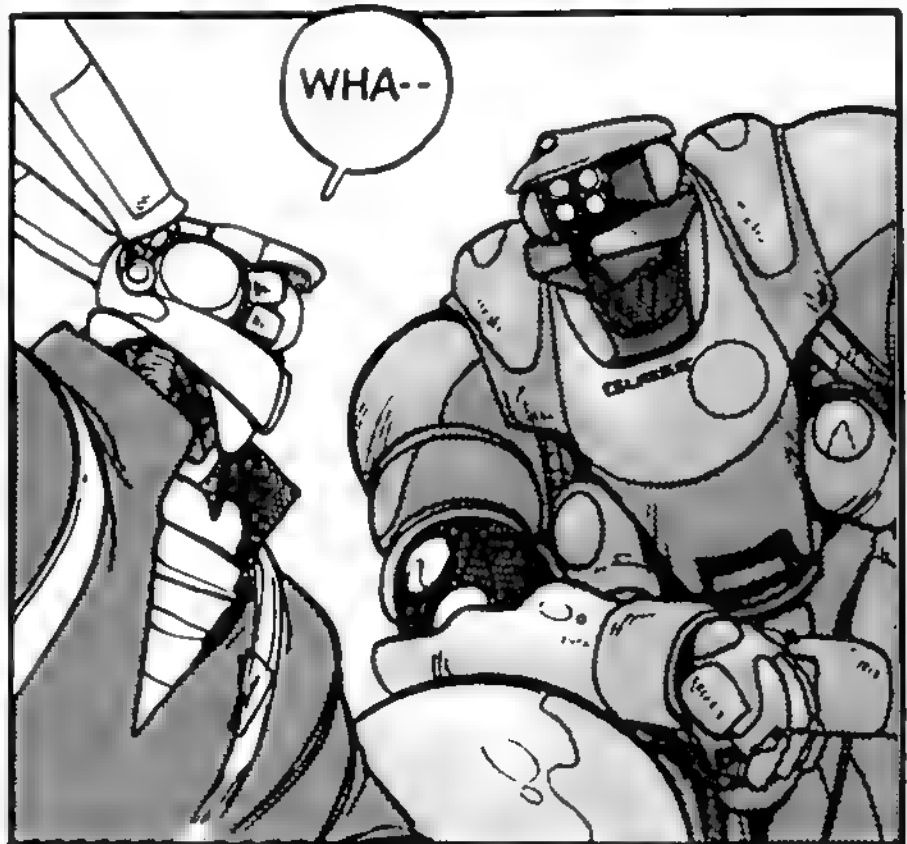
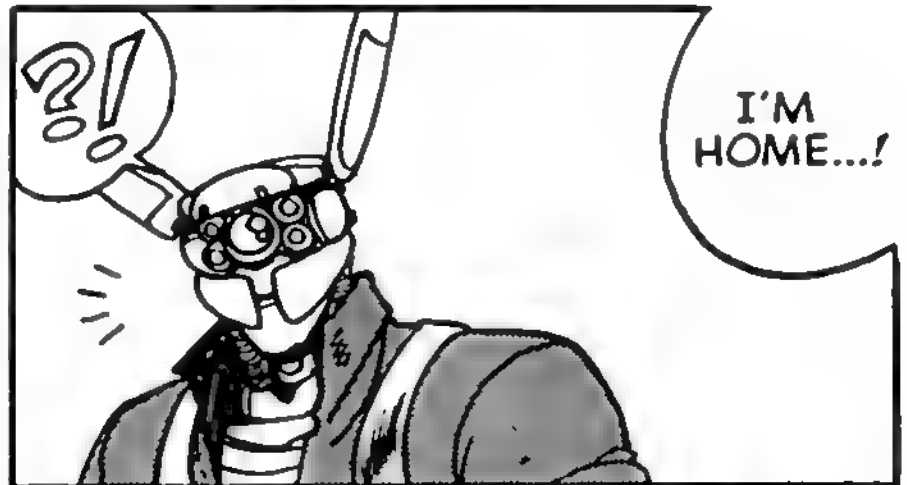
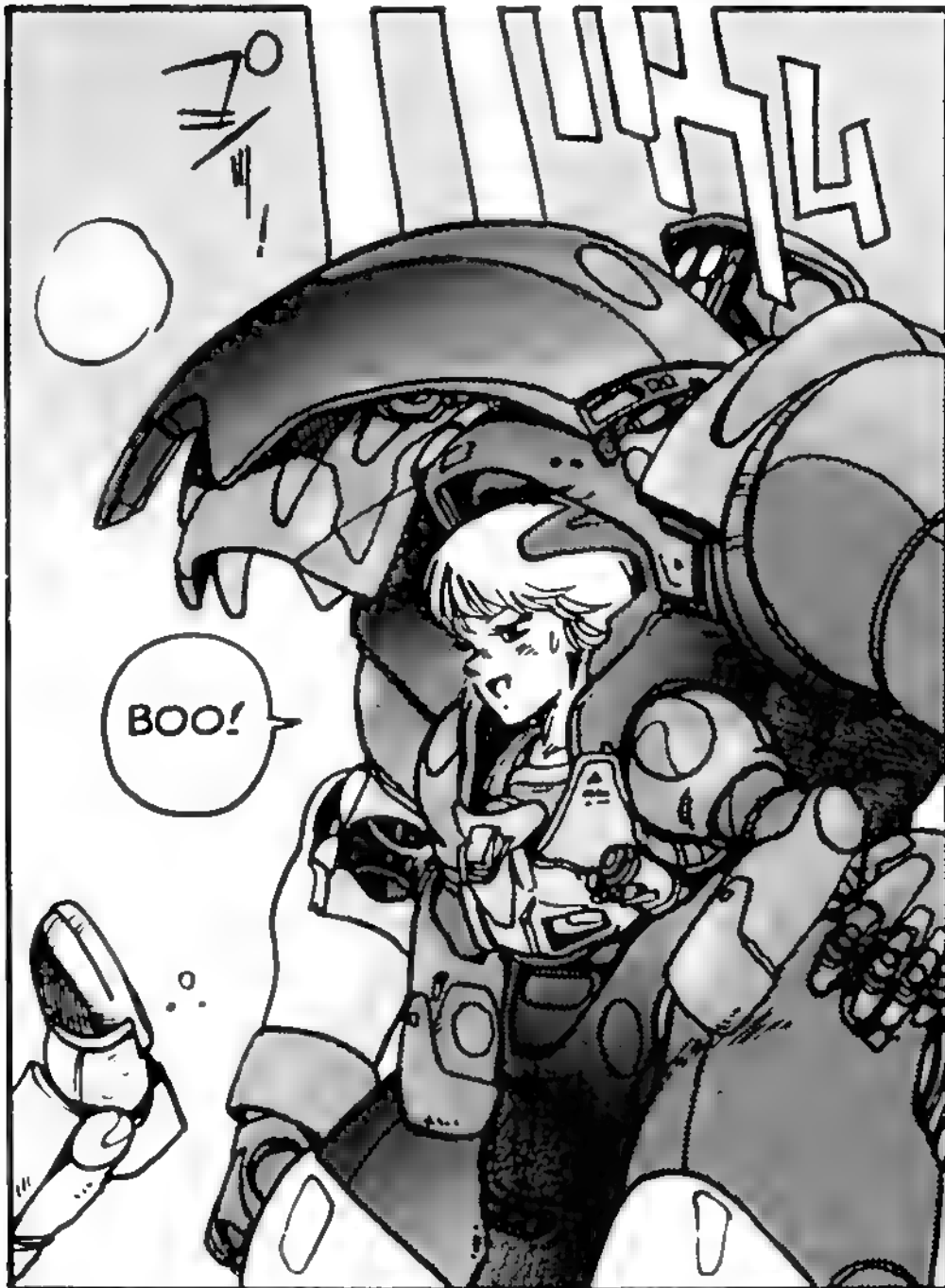
*FX FWMP



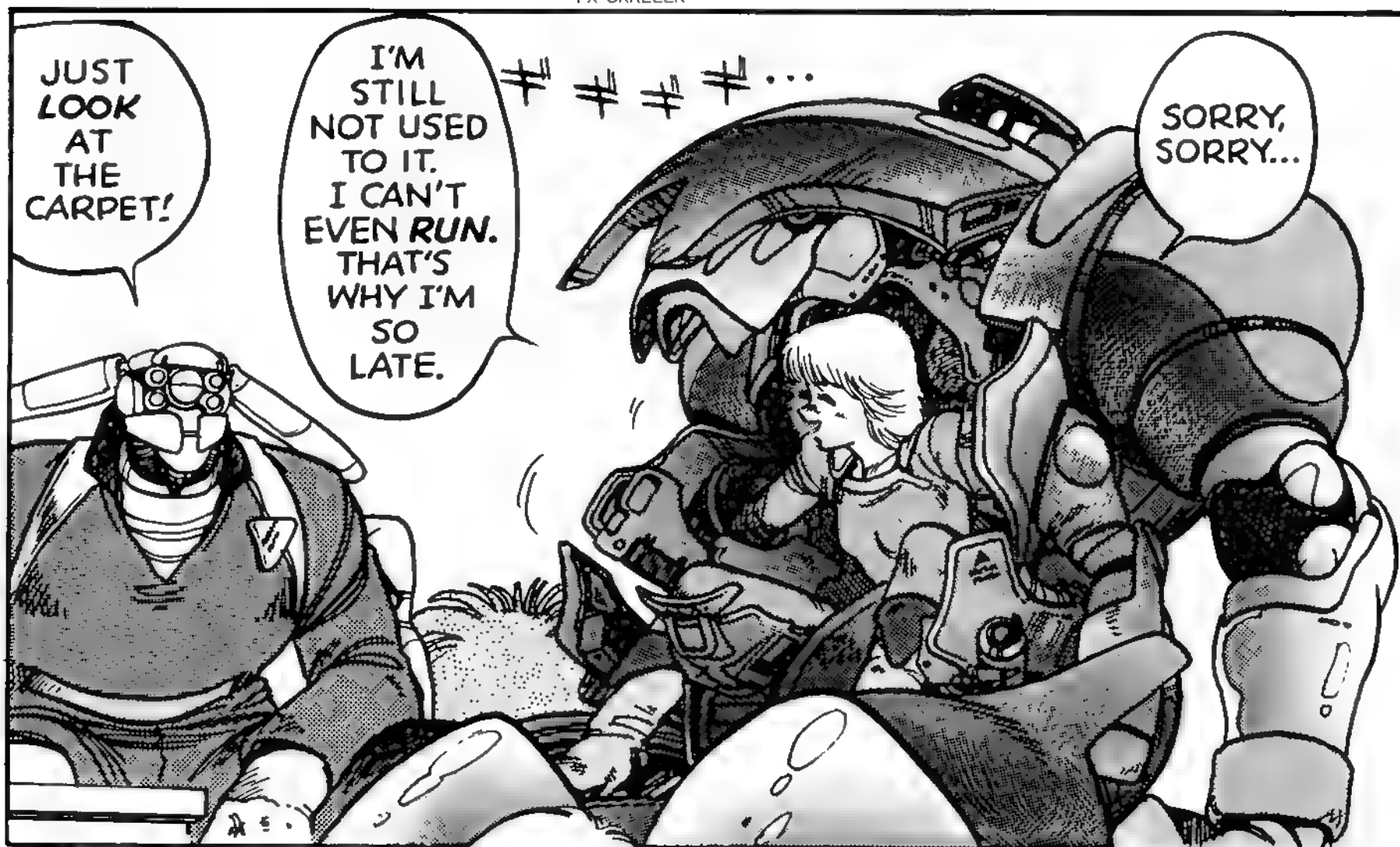


*FX FSHH

*FX GCHNK



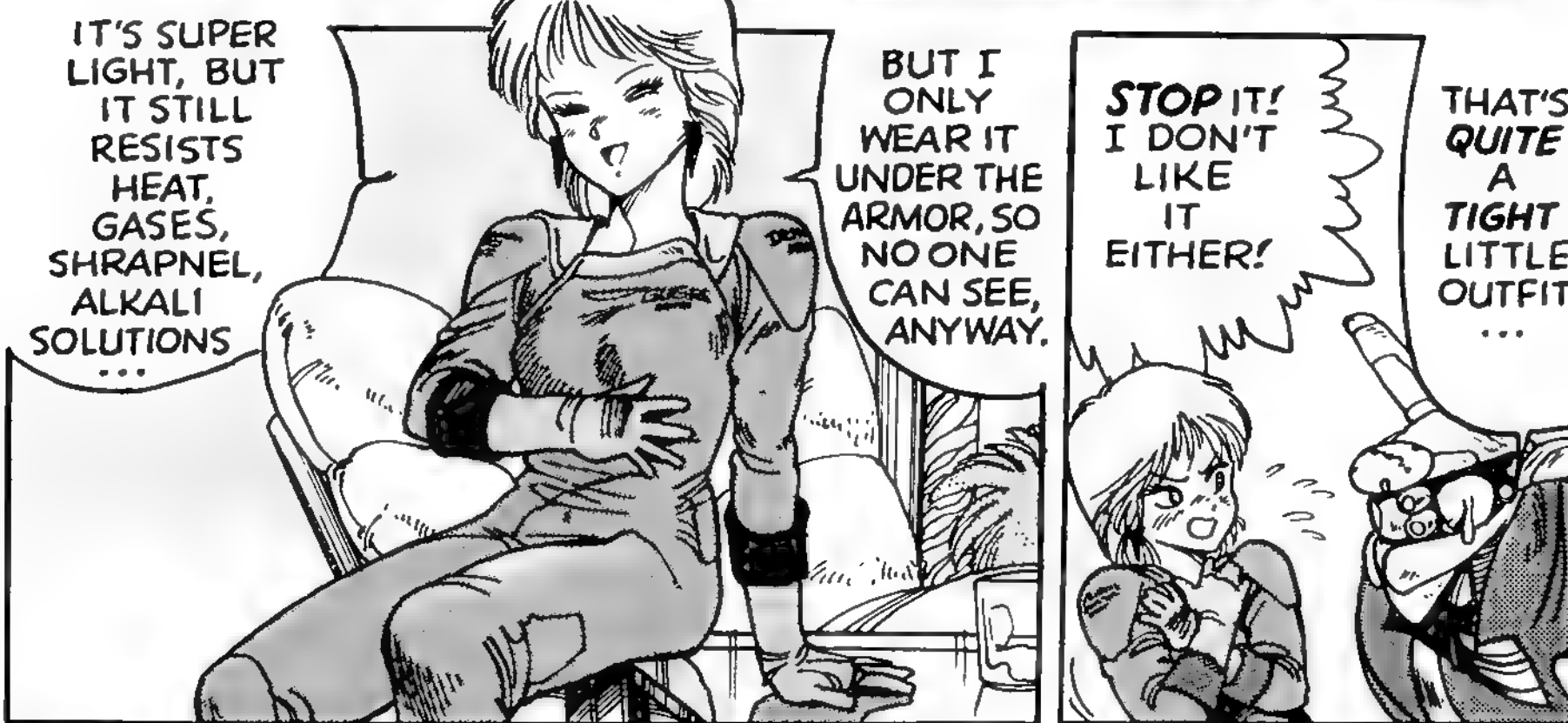
*FX OW OWW



JUST
LOOK
AT
THE
CARPET!

I'M
STILL
NOT USED
TO IT.
I CAN'T
EVEN *RUN*.
THAT'S
WHY I'M
SO LATE.

SORRY,
SORRY...

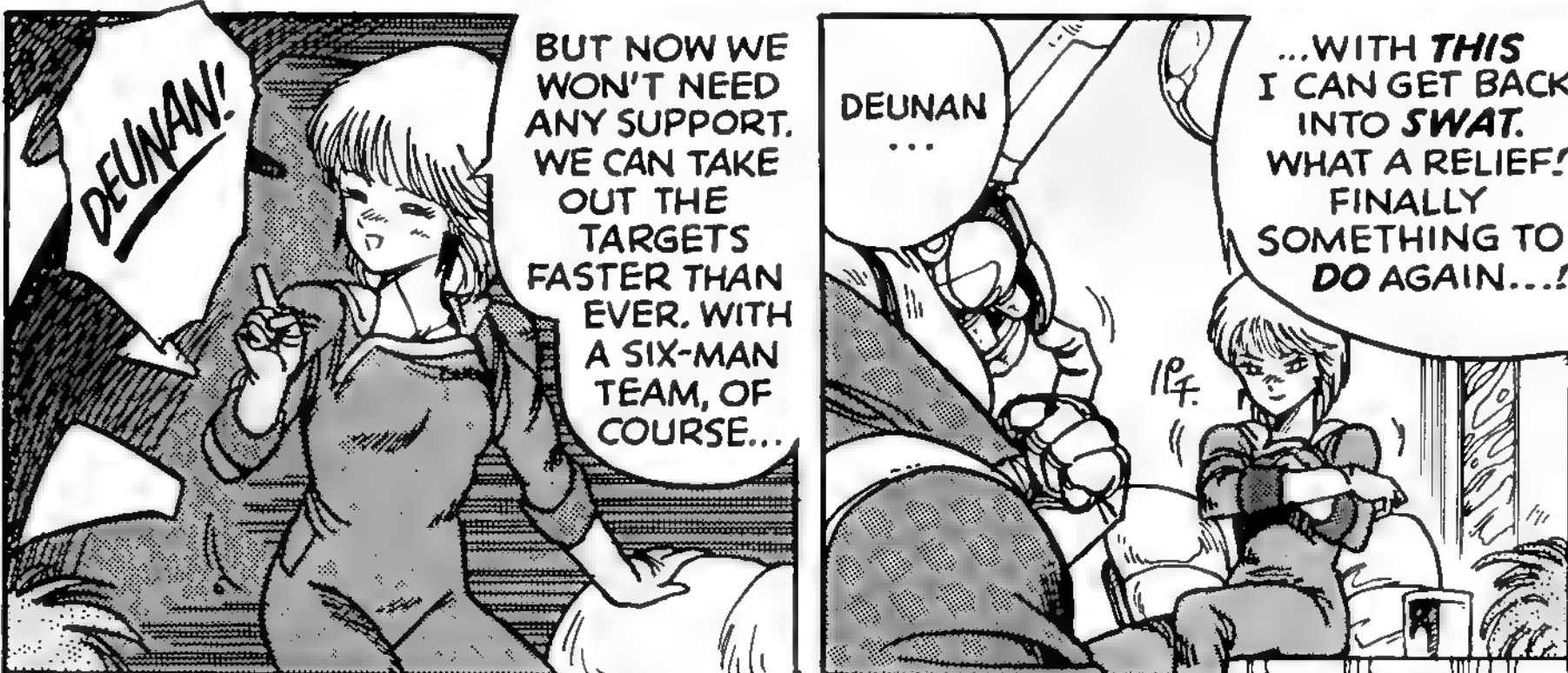


IT'S SUPER
LIGHT, BUT
IT STILL
RESISTS
HEAT,
GASES,
SHRAPNEL,
ALKALI
SOLUTIONS
...

BUT I
ONLY
WEAR IT
UNDER THE
ARMOR, SO
NO ONE
CAN SEE,
ANYWAY.

STOP IT!
I DON'T
LIKE
IT
EITHER!

THAT'S
QUITE
A
TIGHT
LITTLE
OUTFIT
...



DEUNAN!

BUT NOW WE
WON'T NEED
ANY SUPPORT.
WE CAN TAKE
OUT THE
TARGETS
FASTER THAN
EVER. WITH
A SIX-MAN
TEAM, OF
COURSE...

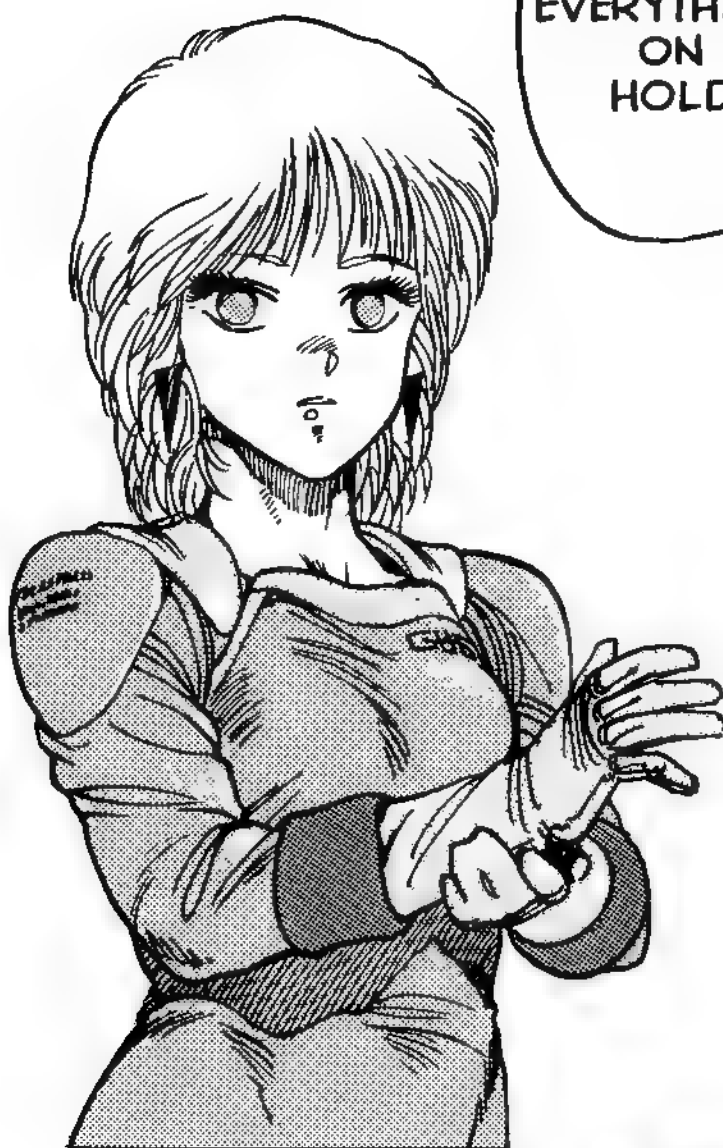
DEUNAN
...

...WITH **THIS**
I CAN GET BACK
INTO **SWAT**.
WHAT A RELIEF!
FINALLY
SOMETHING TO
DO AGAIN...!

RETURN
THAT
THING
TOMORROW.

EVERYTHING'S
ON
HOLD.

LOOK,
I'M SORRY.
I WANTED
TO SAY
THIS
BEFORE
YOU
GOT TOO
CARRIED
AWAY.



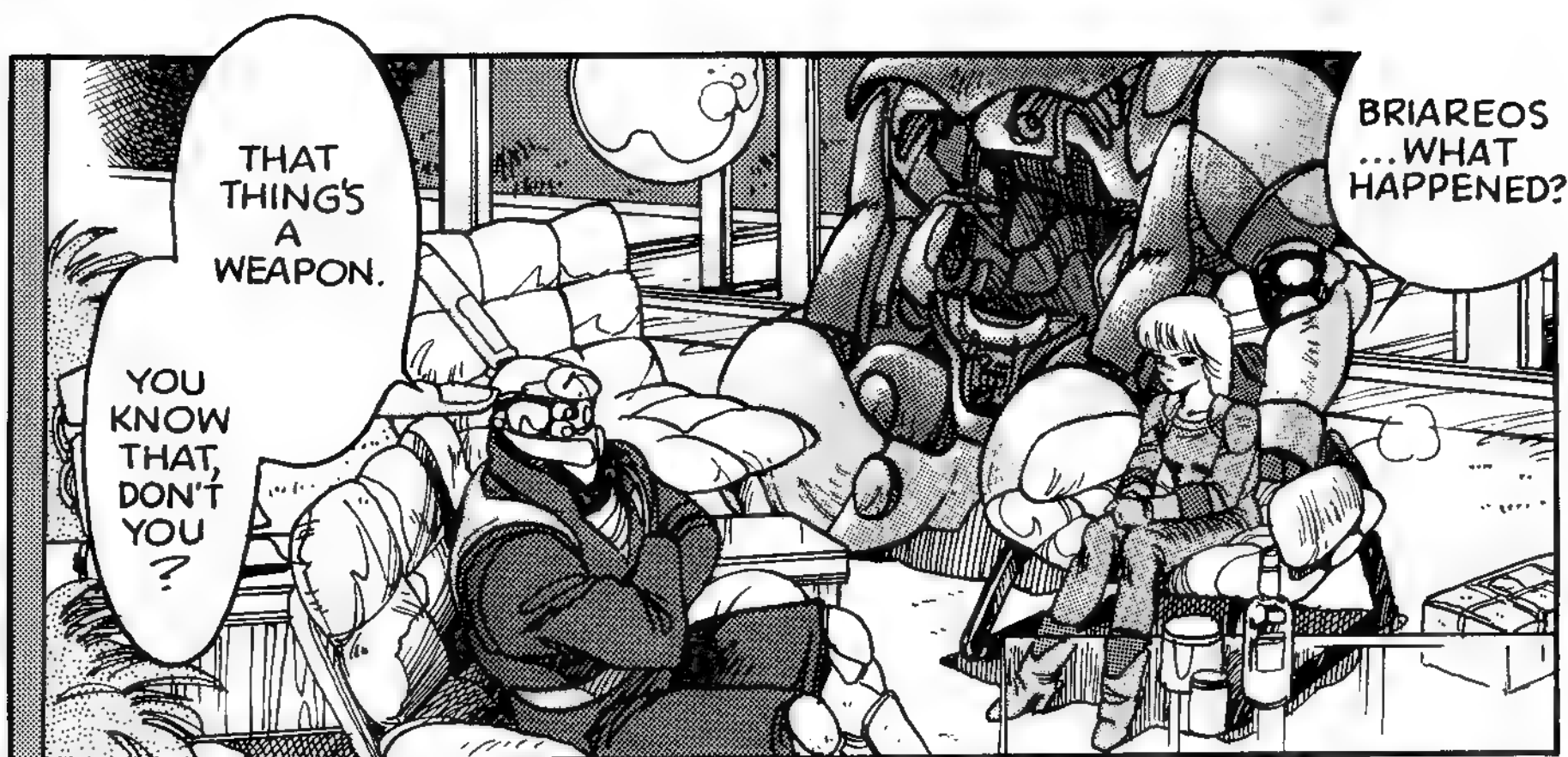
WE'RE
IN
A
C.A.*

I'M
NOT
JOKING.

A-GAIN?
BRIAREOS!
WHY
ARE YOU
ALWAYS
TEASING
ME!
...HA, HA...

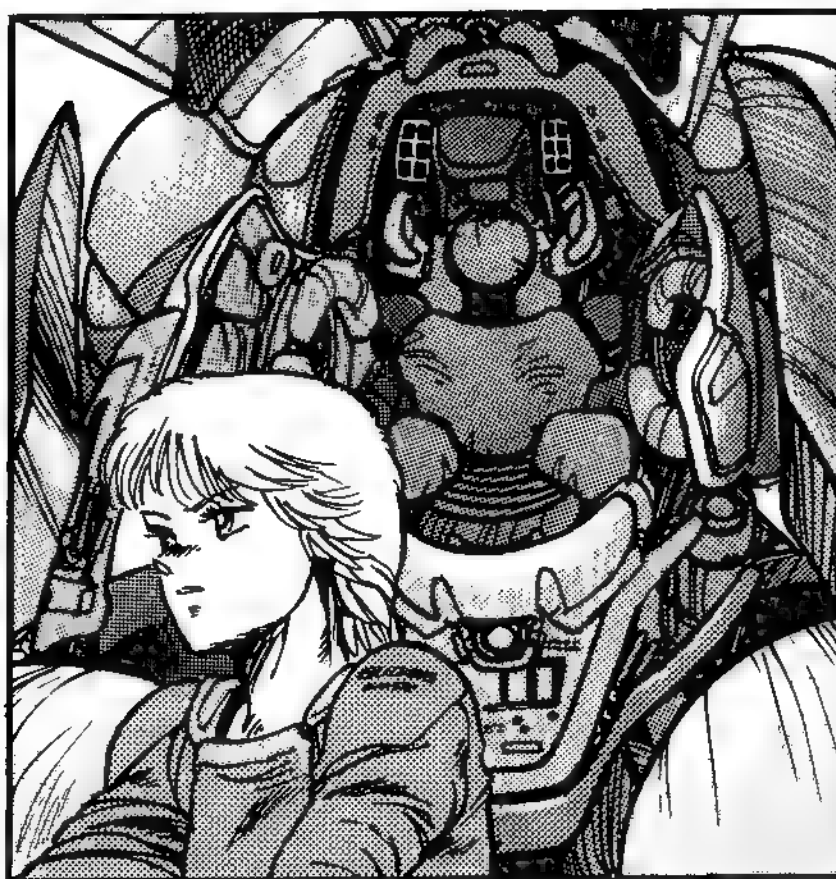


*C.A. Crisis Area. In SWAT terminology, the area within the firing range of a suspected enemy—a danger zone.



OR MAYBE GUINEA PIGS.

WE'RE JUST PAWNS, DEUNAN...

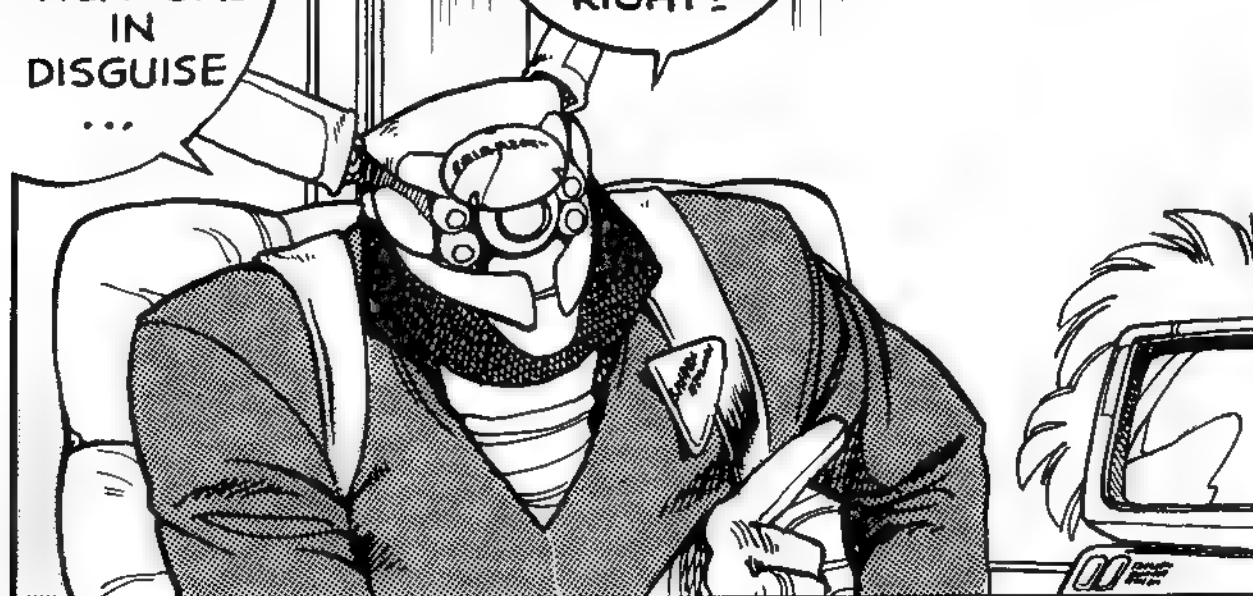


IT'S A TRAP.



TO DO THOSE JOBS, YOU NEED TOOLS, TOOLS THAT ARE REALLY WEAPONS IN DISGUISE ...

THERE'RE ONLY A FEW JOBS FOR PEOPLE FROM THE OUTSIDE, RIGHT?



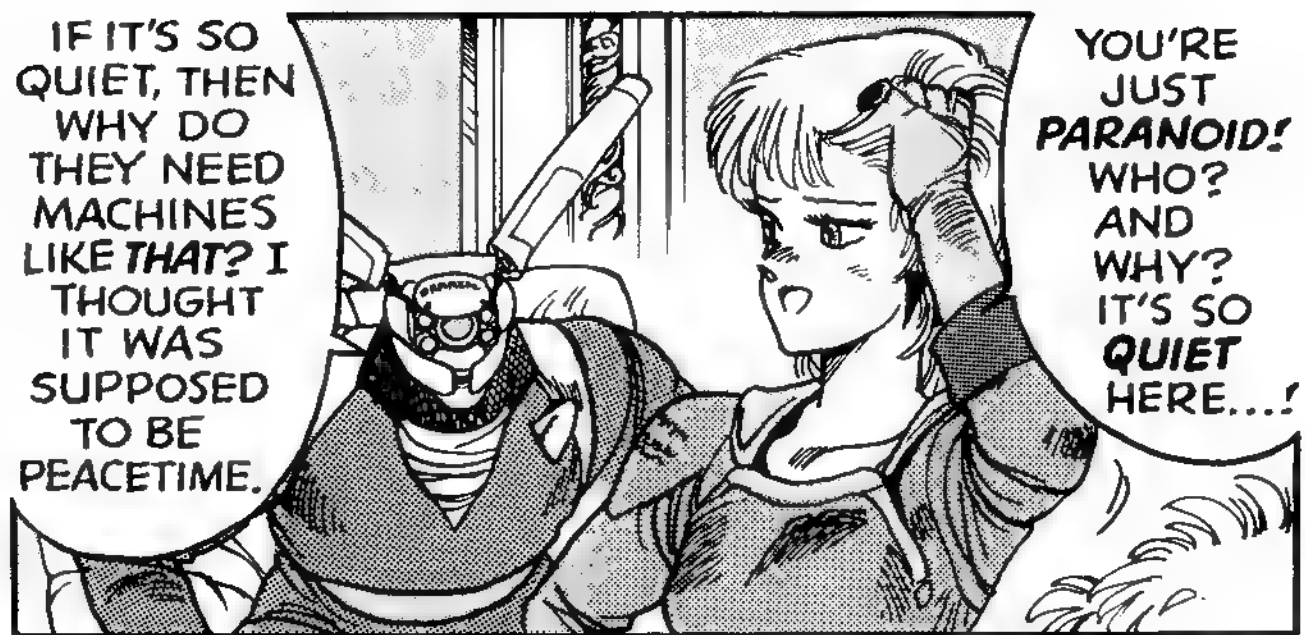
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



EVEN
HITOMI'S
ONE!

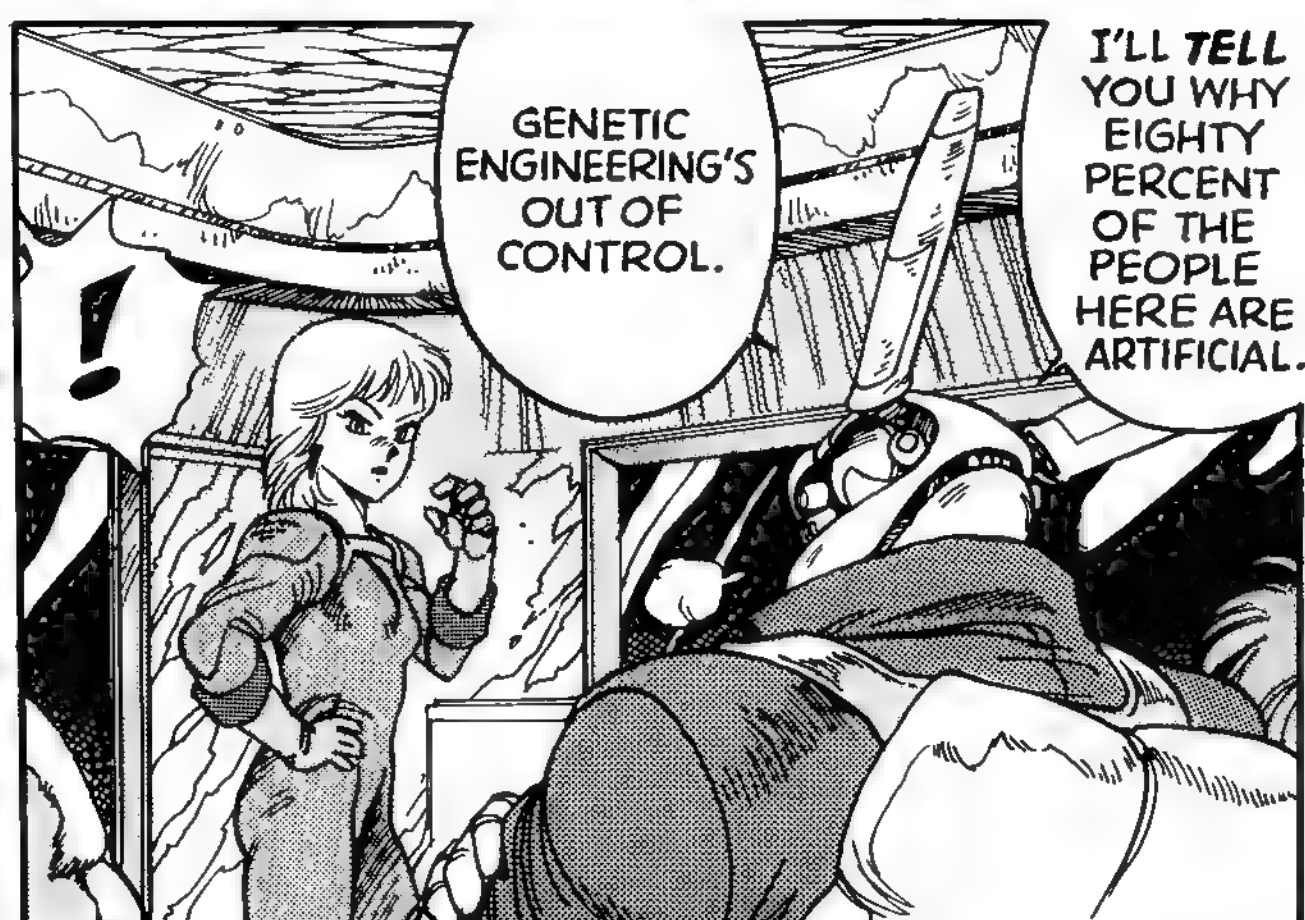
IF IT'S SO
QUIET, THEN
WHY DO
THEY NEED
MACHINES
LIKE *THAT*? I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
PEACETIME.

YOU'RE
JUST
PARANOID!
WHO?
AND
WHY?
IT'S SO
QUIET
HERE....!



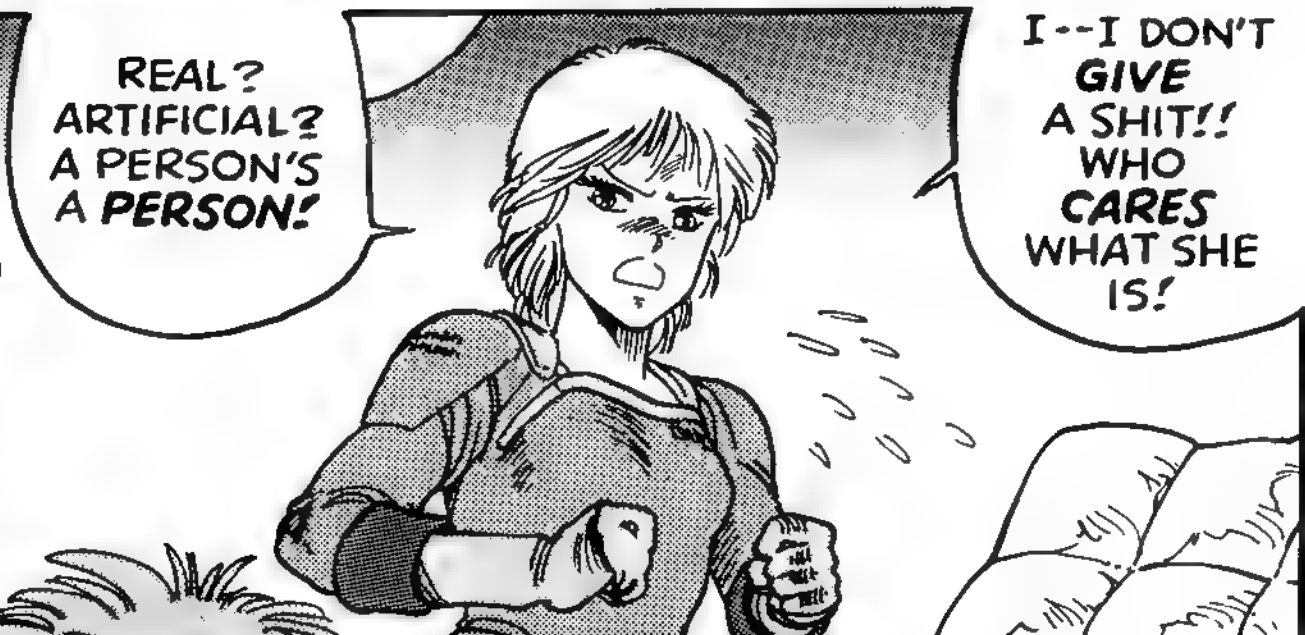
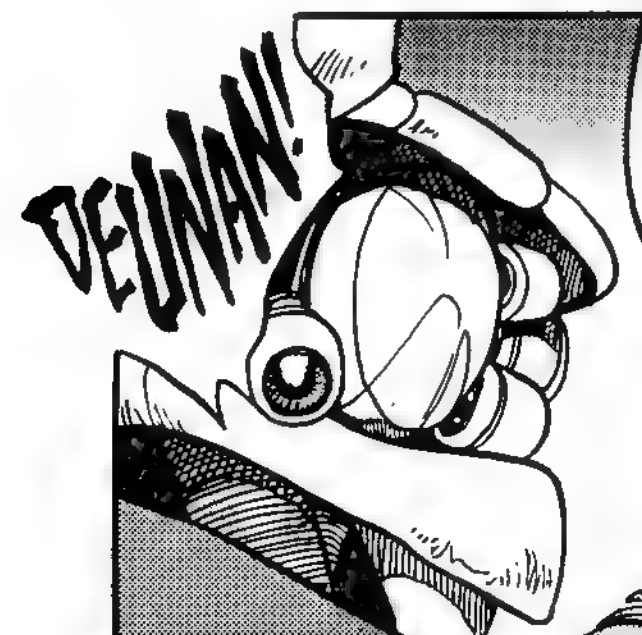
GENETIC
ENGINEERING'S
OUT OF
CONTROL.

I'LL **TELL**
YOU WHY
EIGHTY
PERCENT
OF THE
PEOPLE
HERE ARE
ARTIFICIAL.



REAL?
ARTIFICIAL?
A PERSON'S
A **PERSON!**

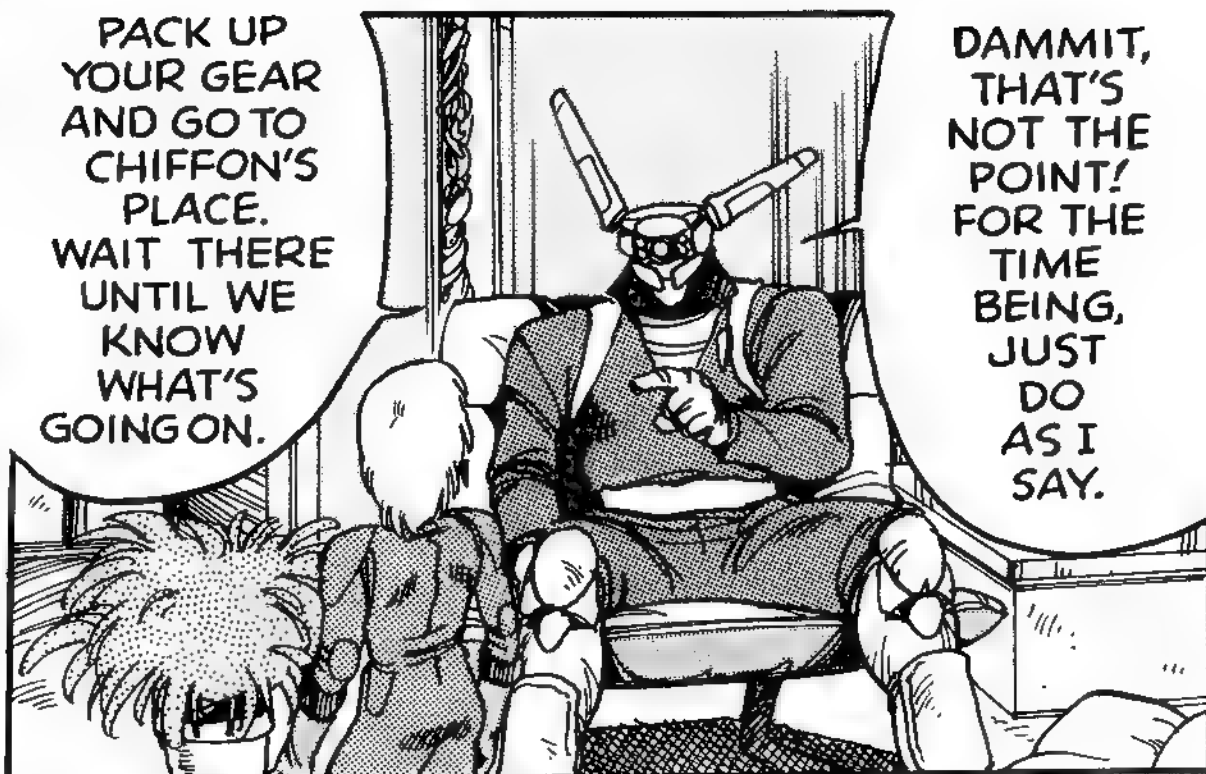
I--I DON'T
GIVE
A SHIT!!
WHO
CARES
WHAT SHE
IS!



I
WON'T!
AFTER
ALL THE
TROUBLE
WE'VE
GONE
THROUGH
...!

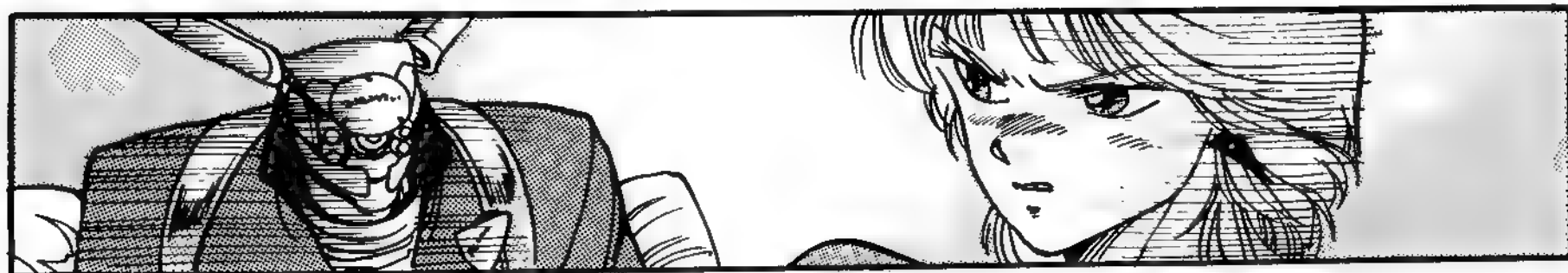
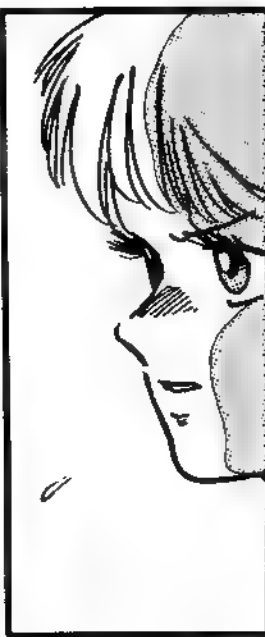


PACK UP
YOUR GEAR
AND GO TO
CHIFFON'S
PLACE.
WAIT THERE
UNTIL WE
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING ON.



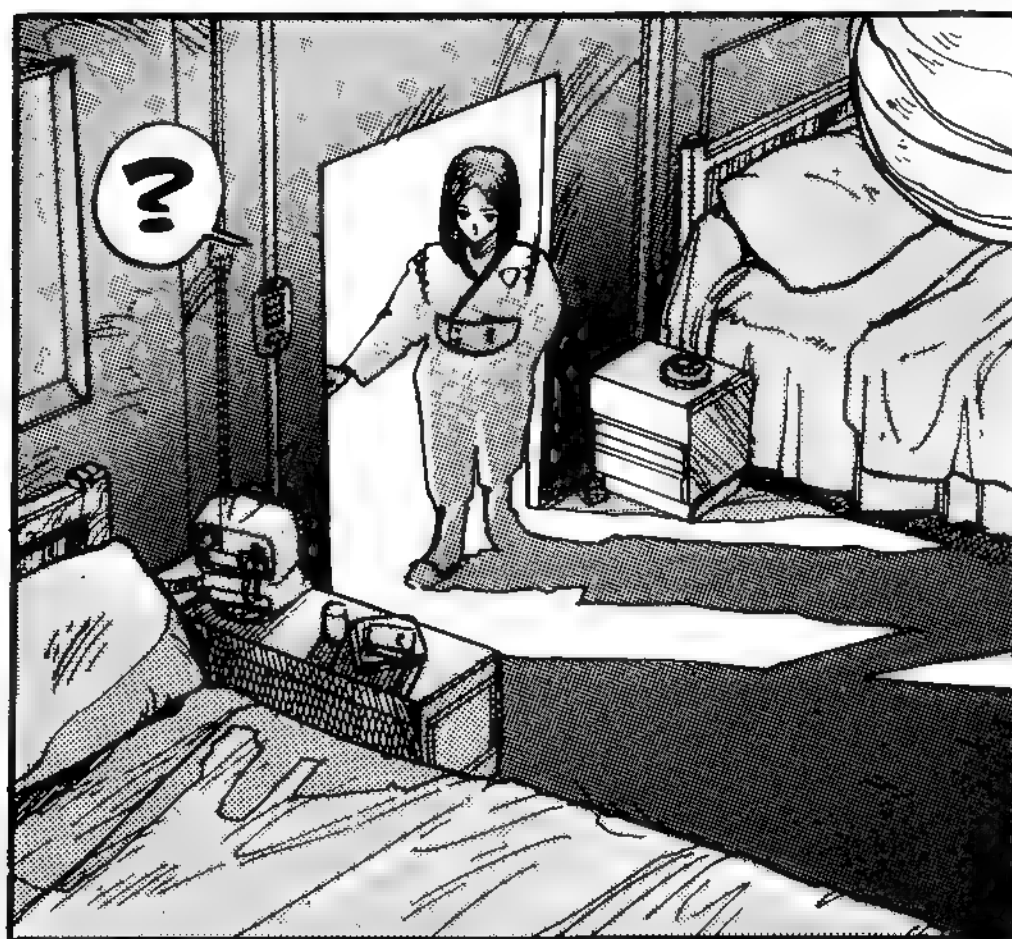
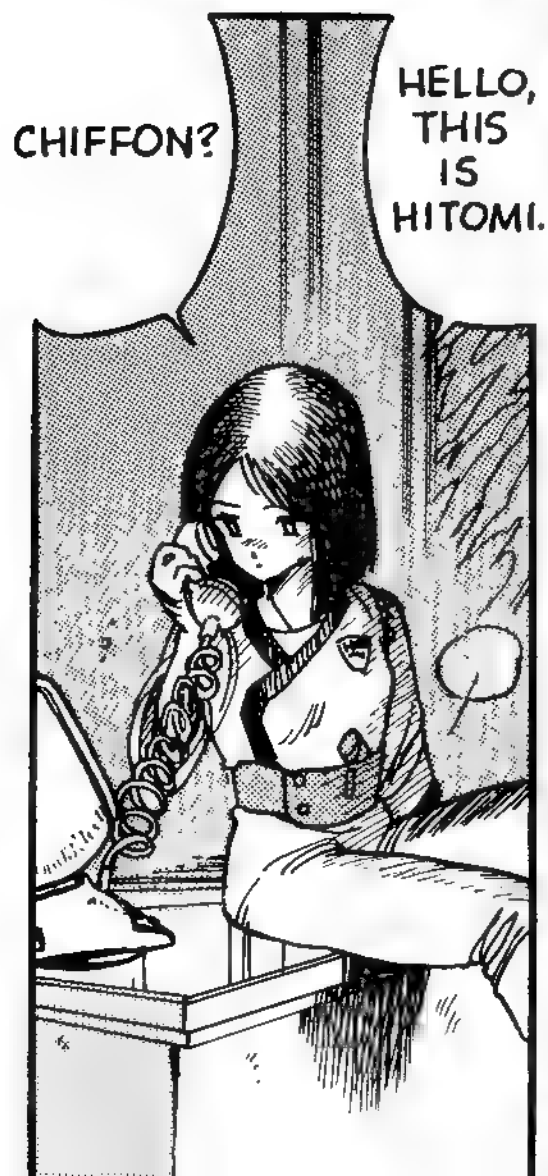
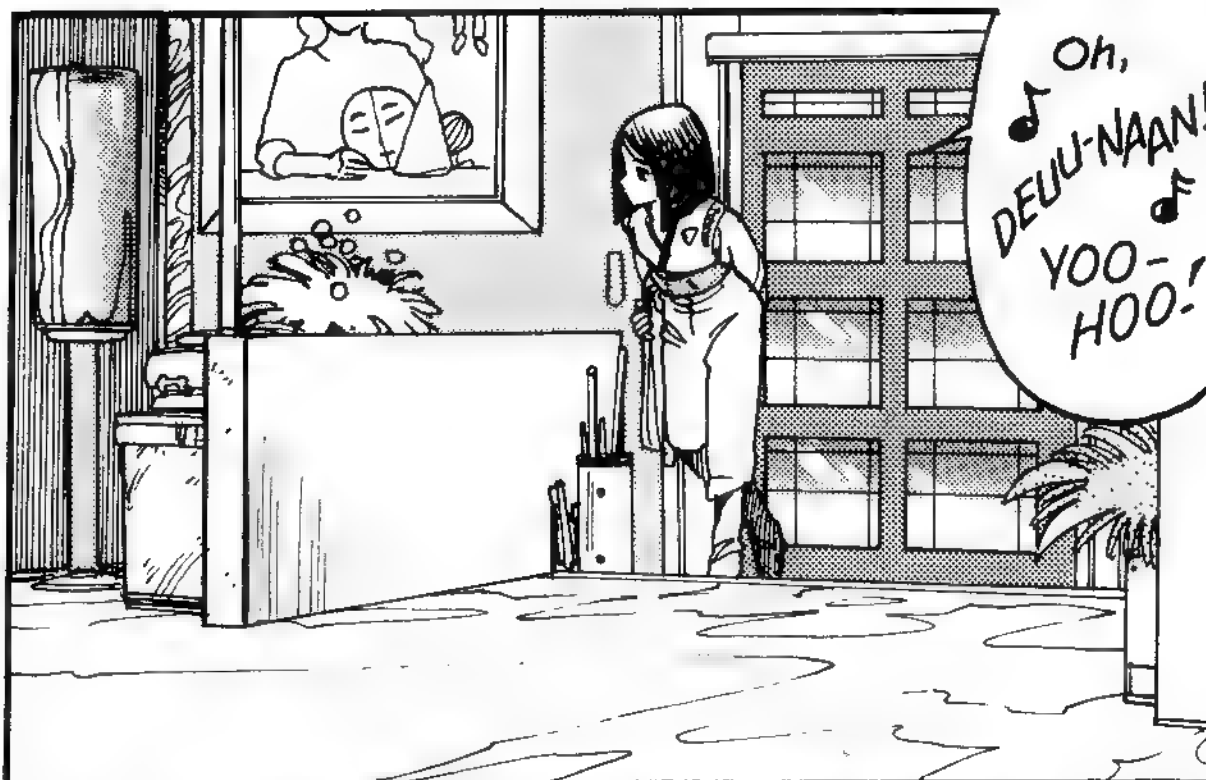
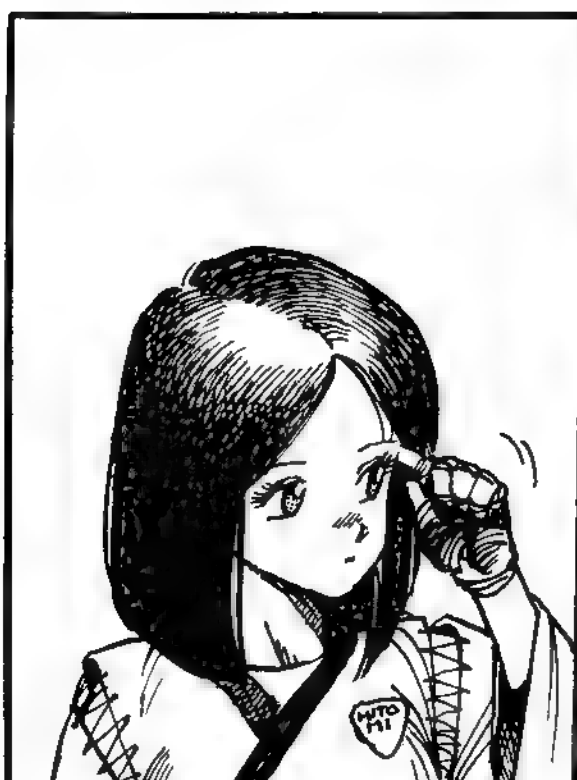
DAMMIT,
THAT'S
NOT THE
POINT!
FOR THE
TIME
BEING,
JUST
DO
AS I
SAY.

GO.



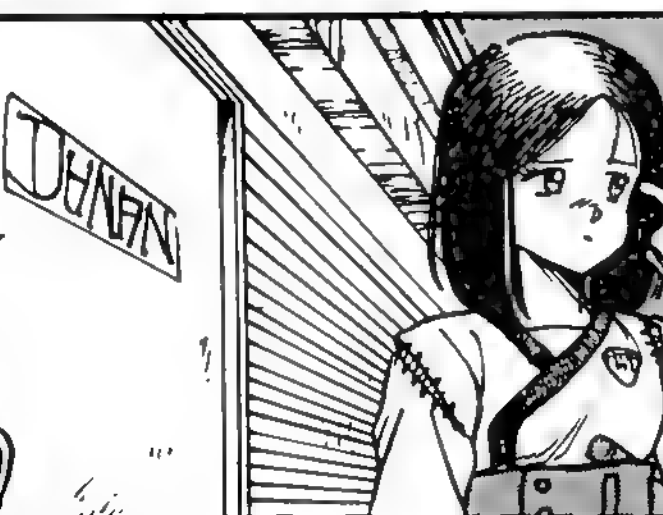
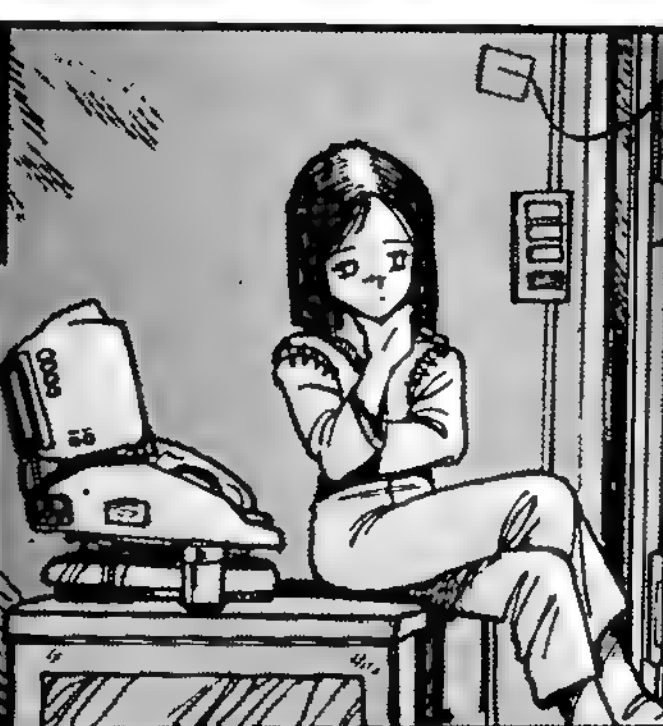
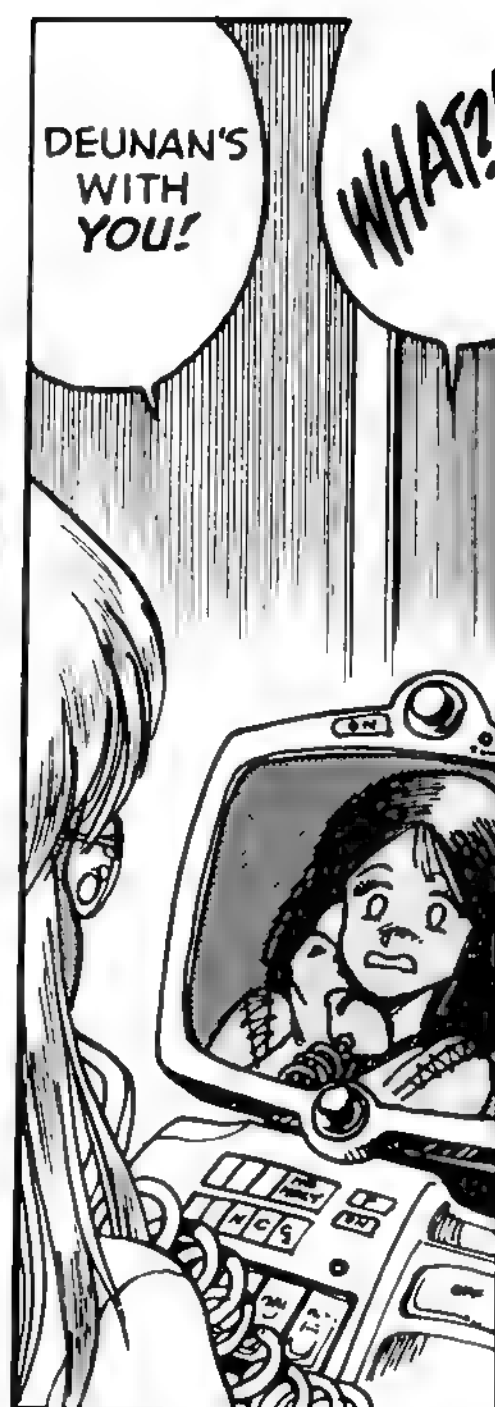
*FX BAM







SHE HAS ALL HER STUFF WITH HER? WELL, COULD YOU PUT HER UP FOR THE NIGHT? I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THIS...



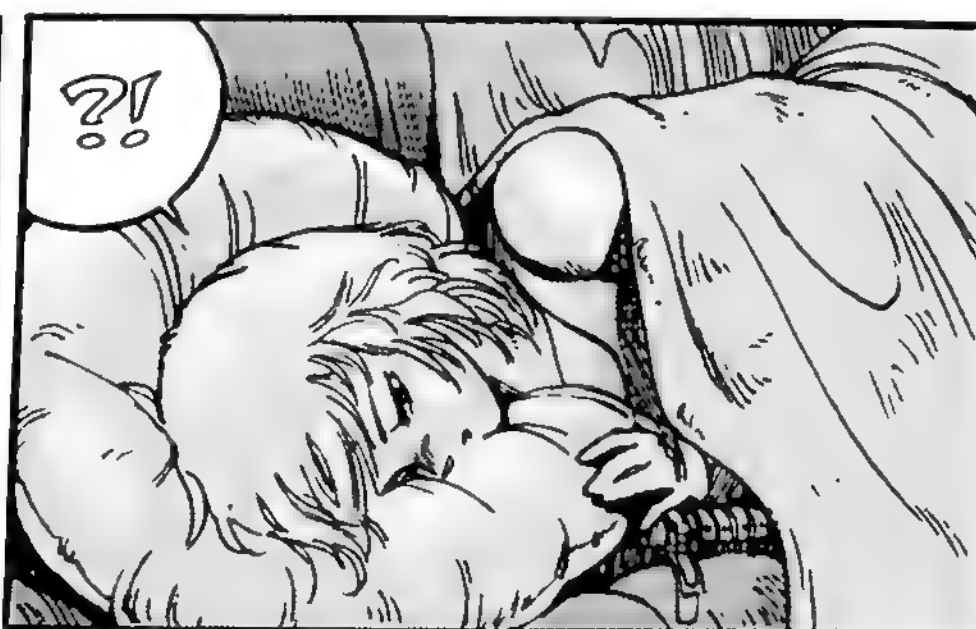
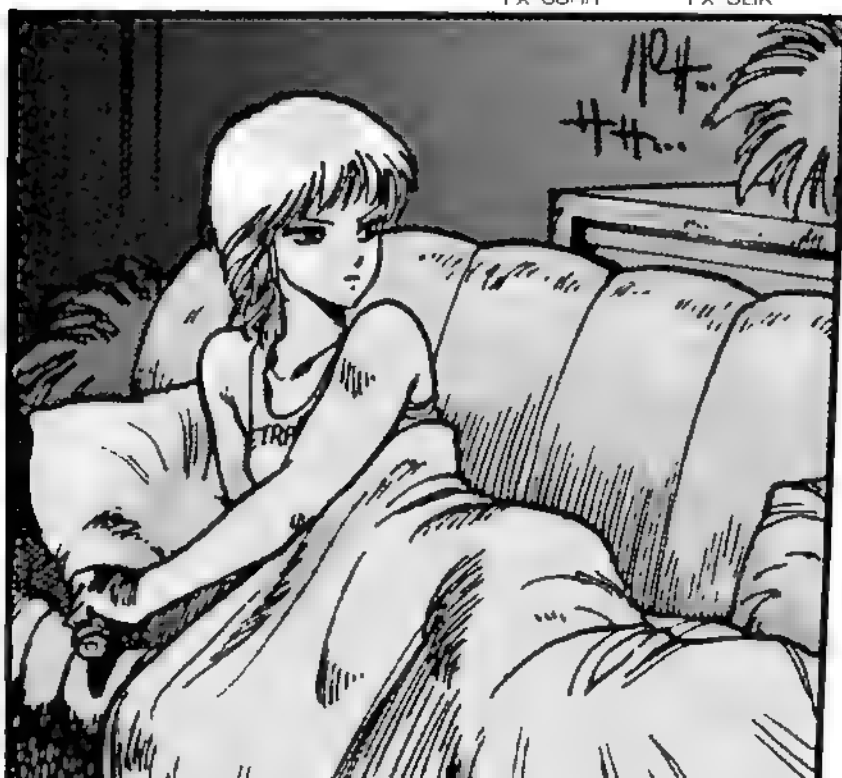


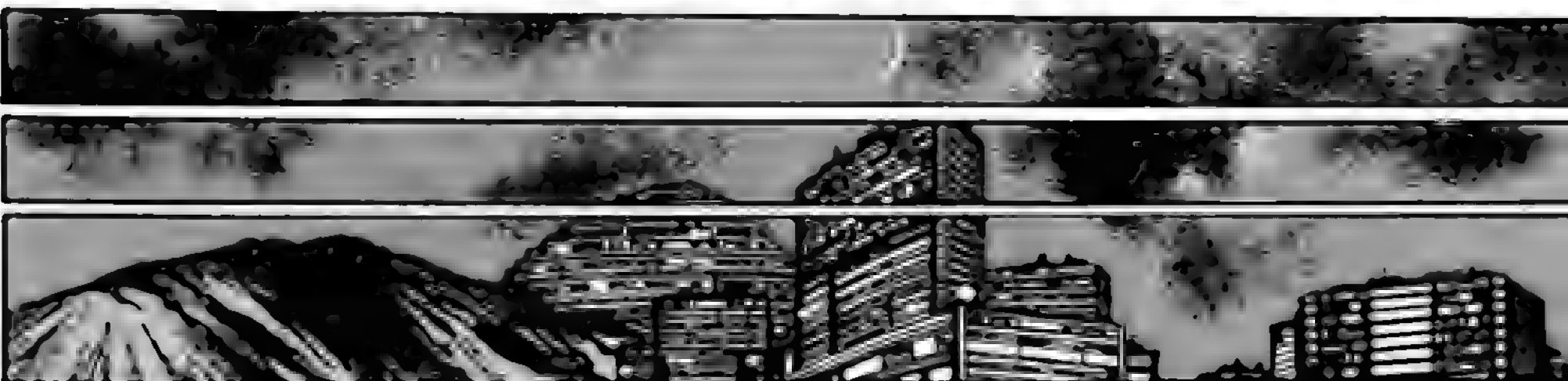
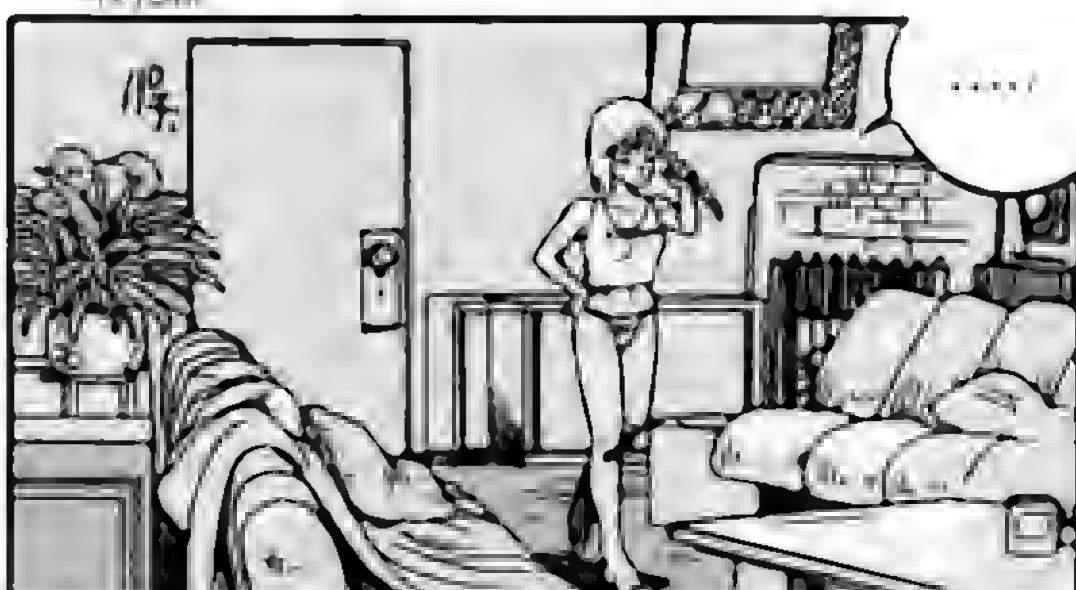
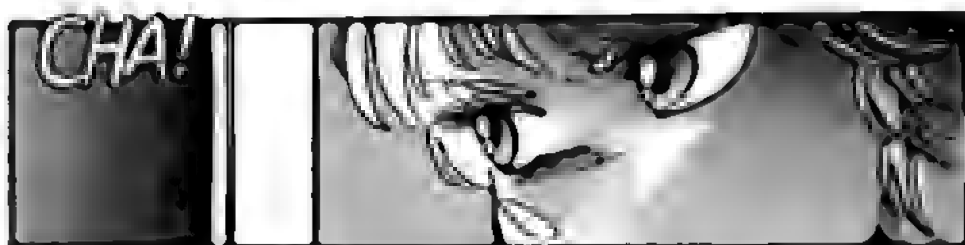
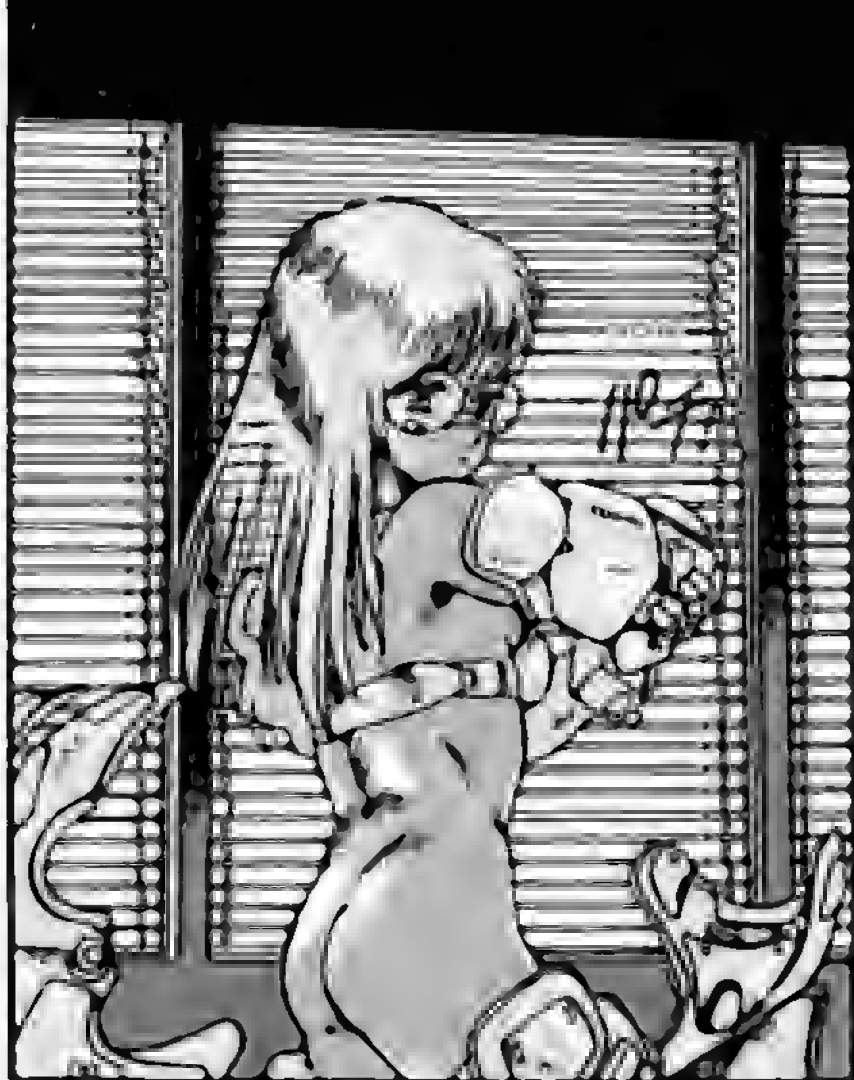
*FX KUNK



*FX SSHH

*FX CLIK





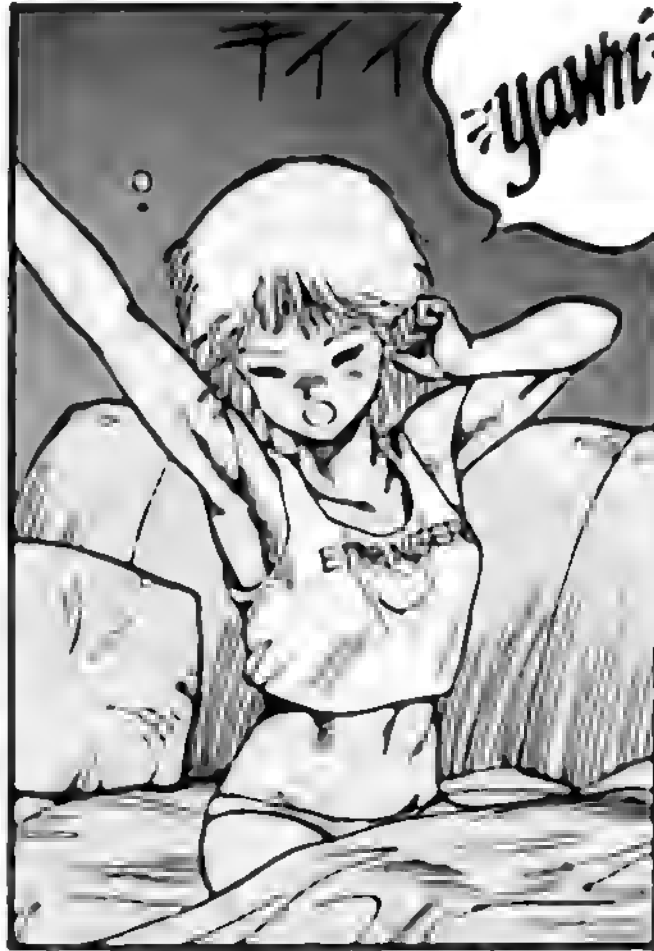
*FX VREEEEEEEE



*FX GAMMAYORUM



*FX VRENN



*FX VRENN



*FX VRENN

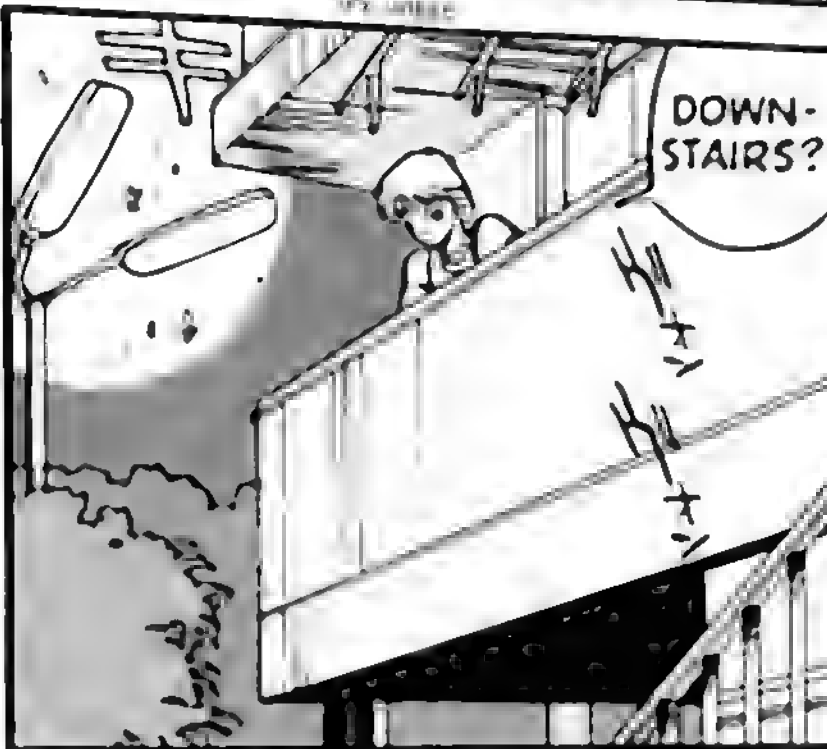


*FX GAMMAYORUM

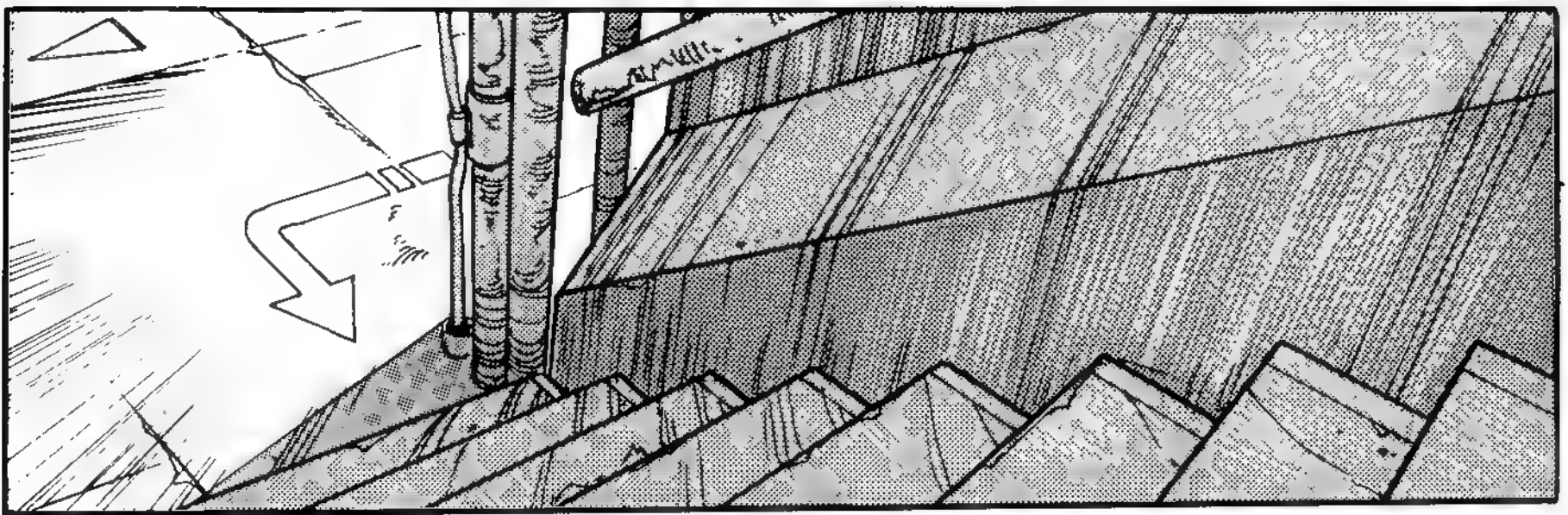


*FX VRENN

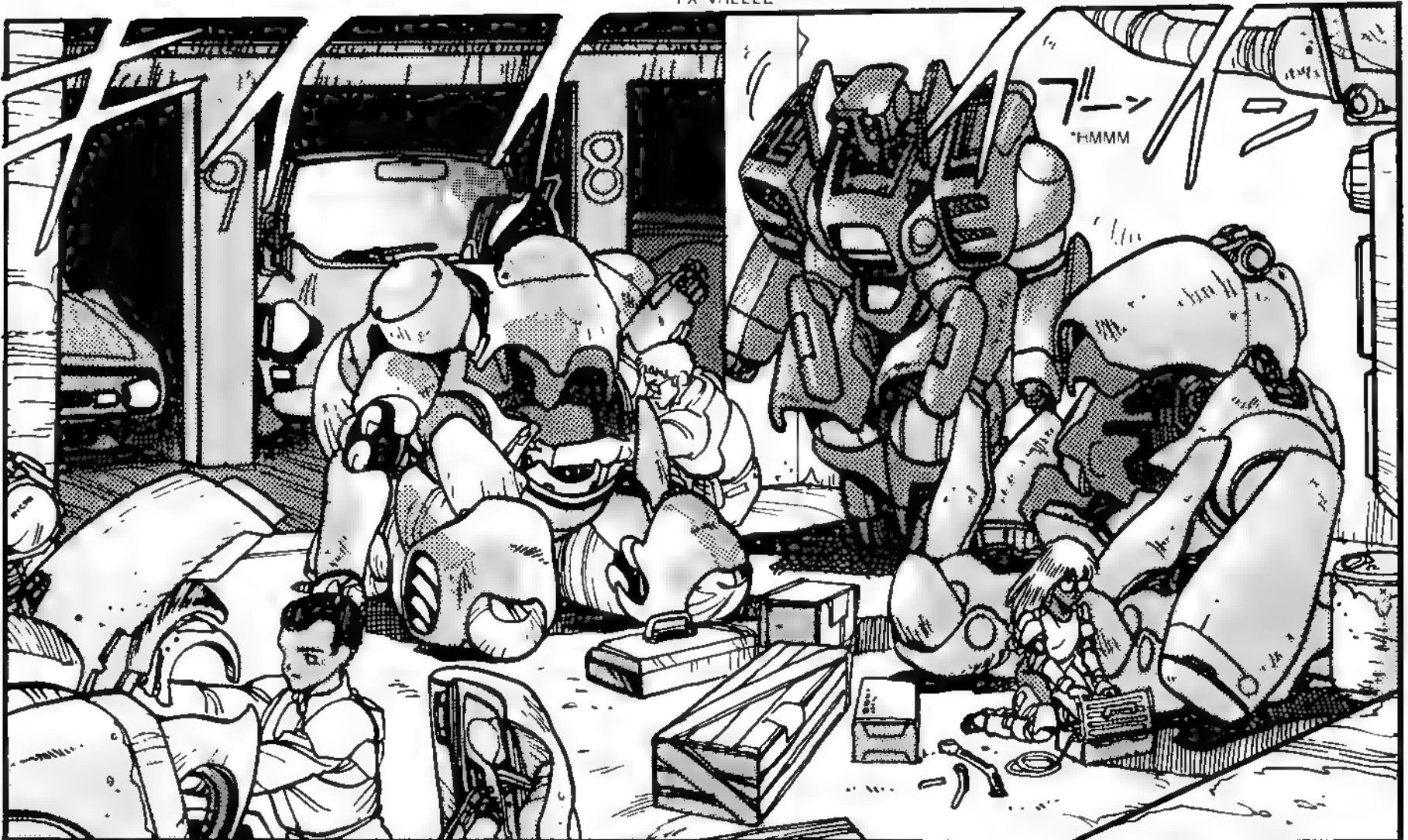
*FX VRENN



*FX VRNN VRNN

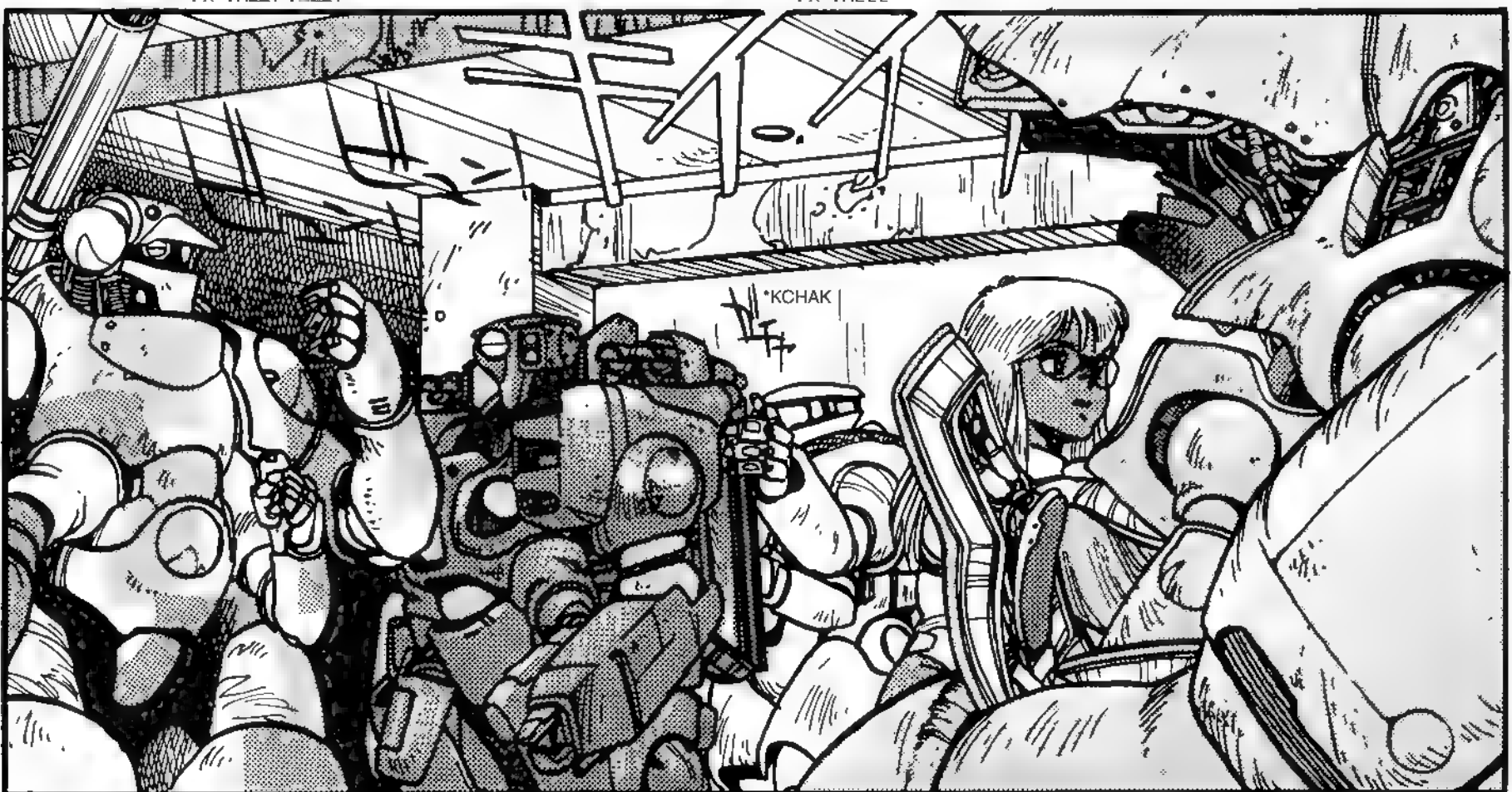


*FX VREEEE

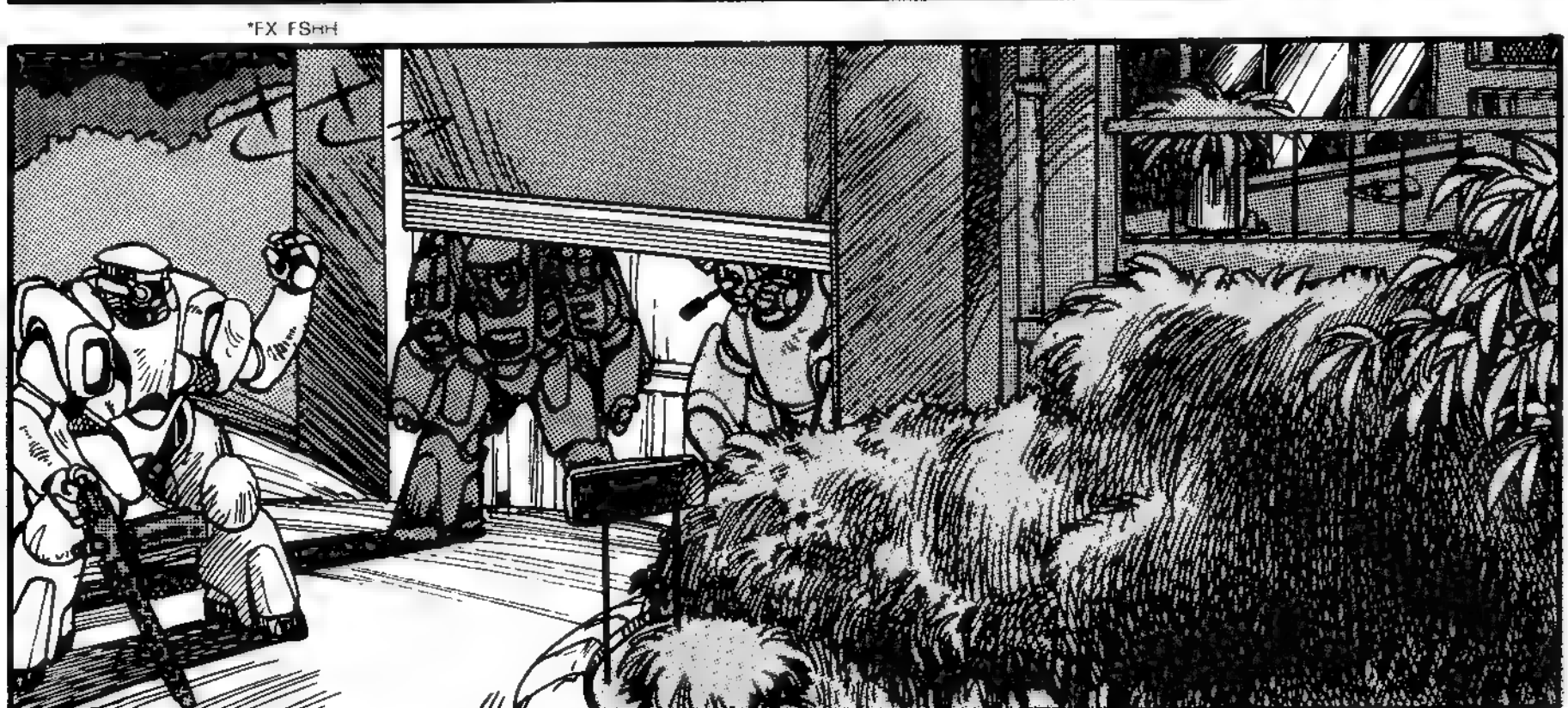
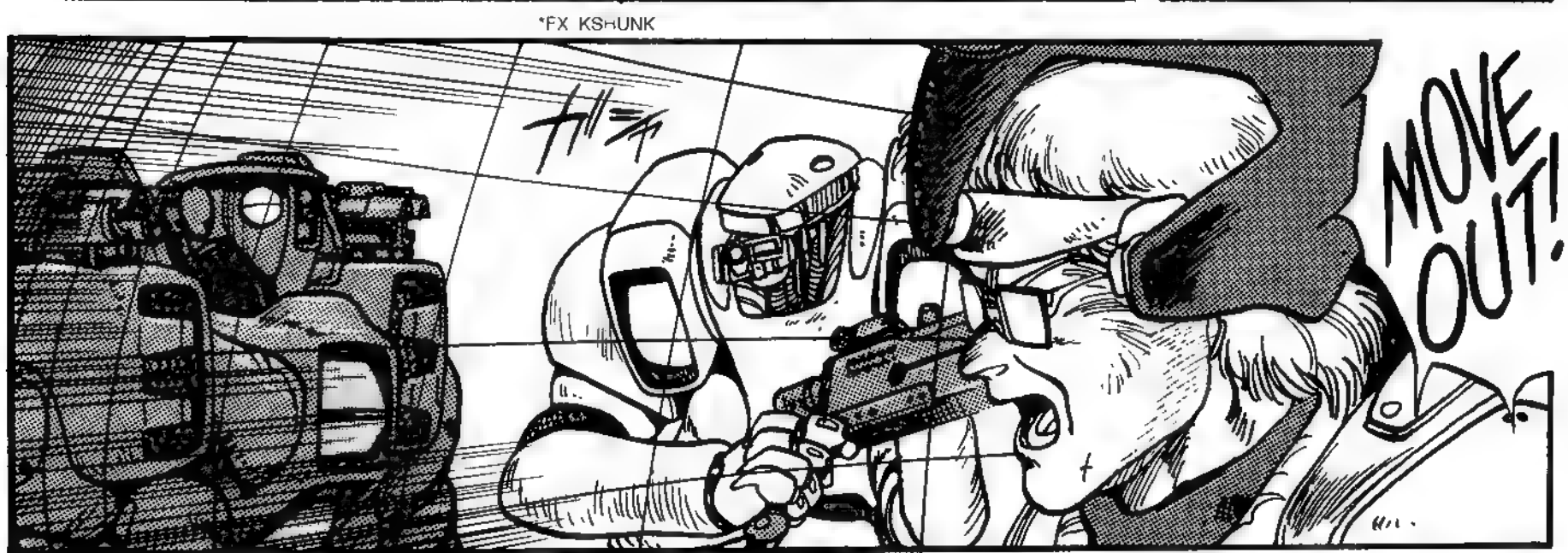
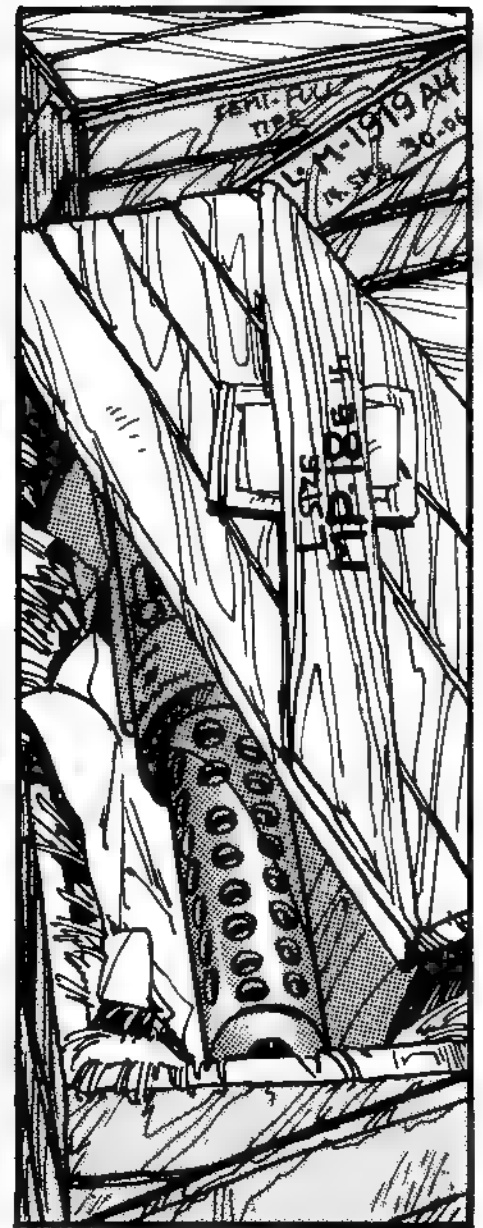
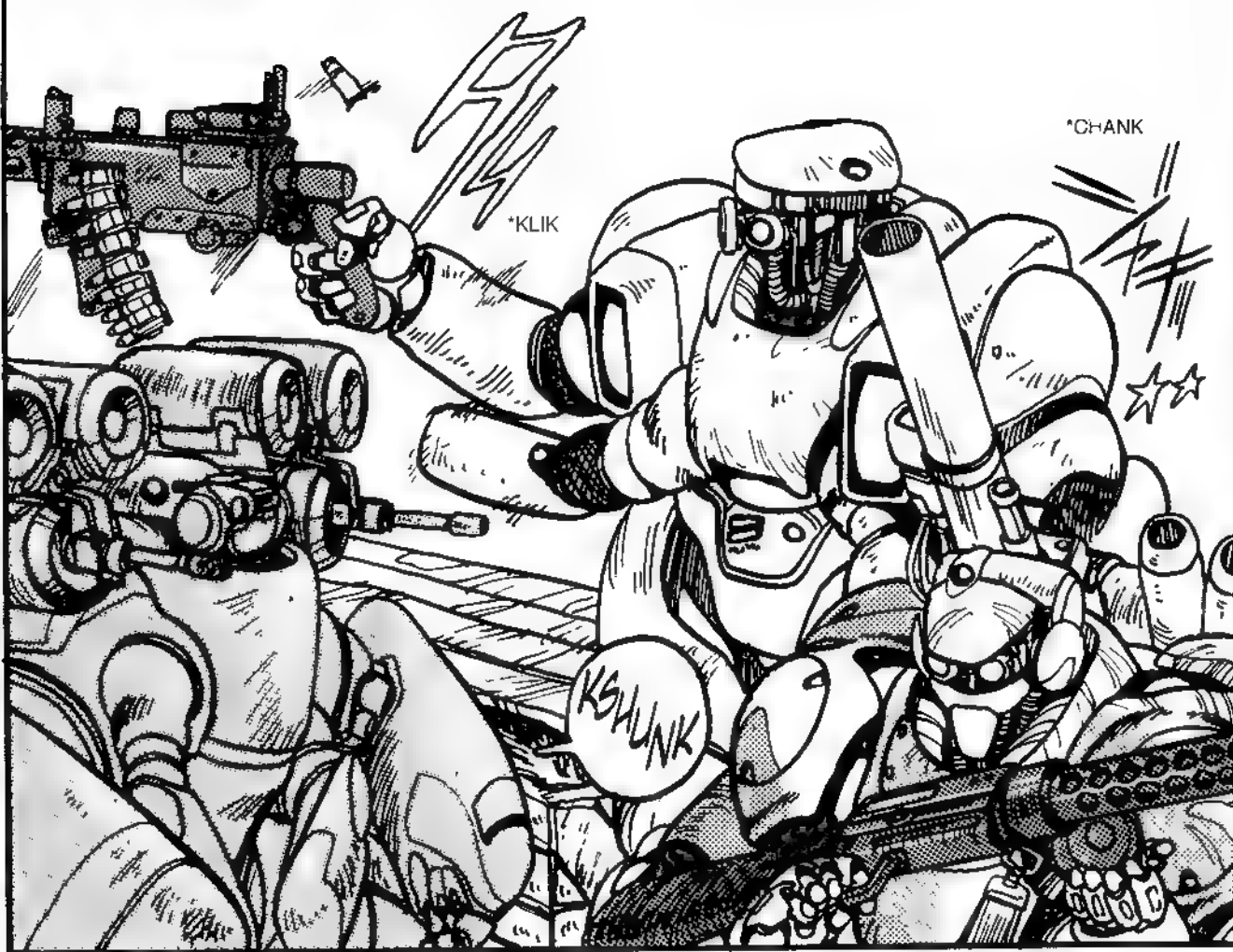


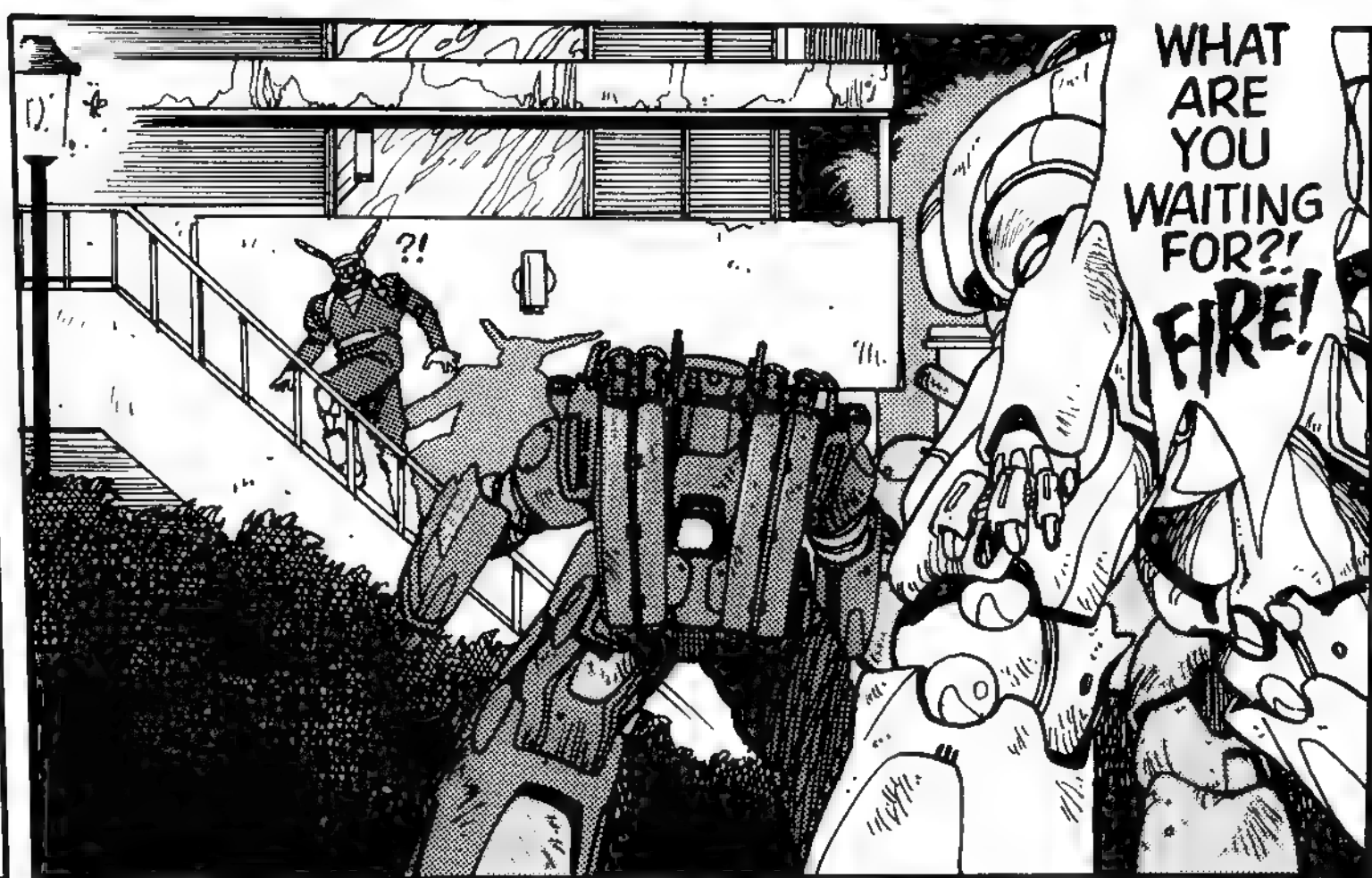
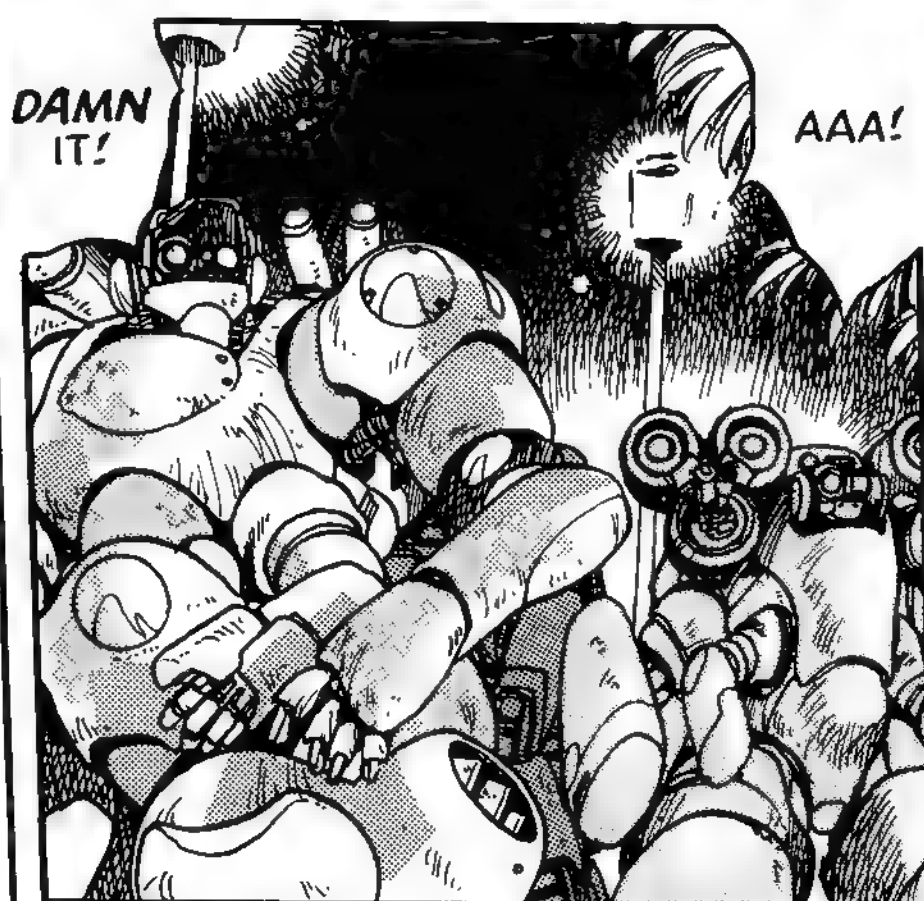
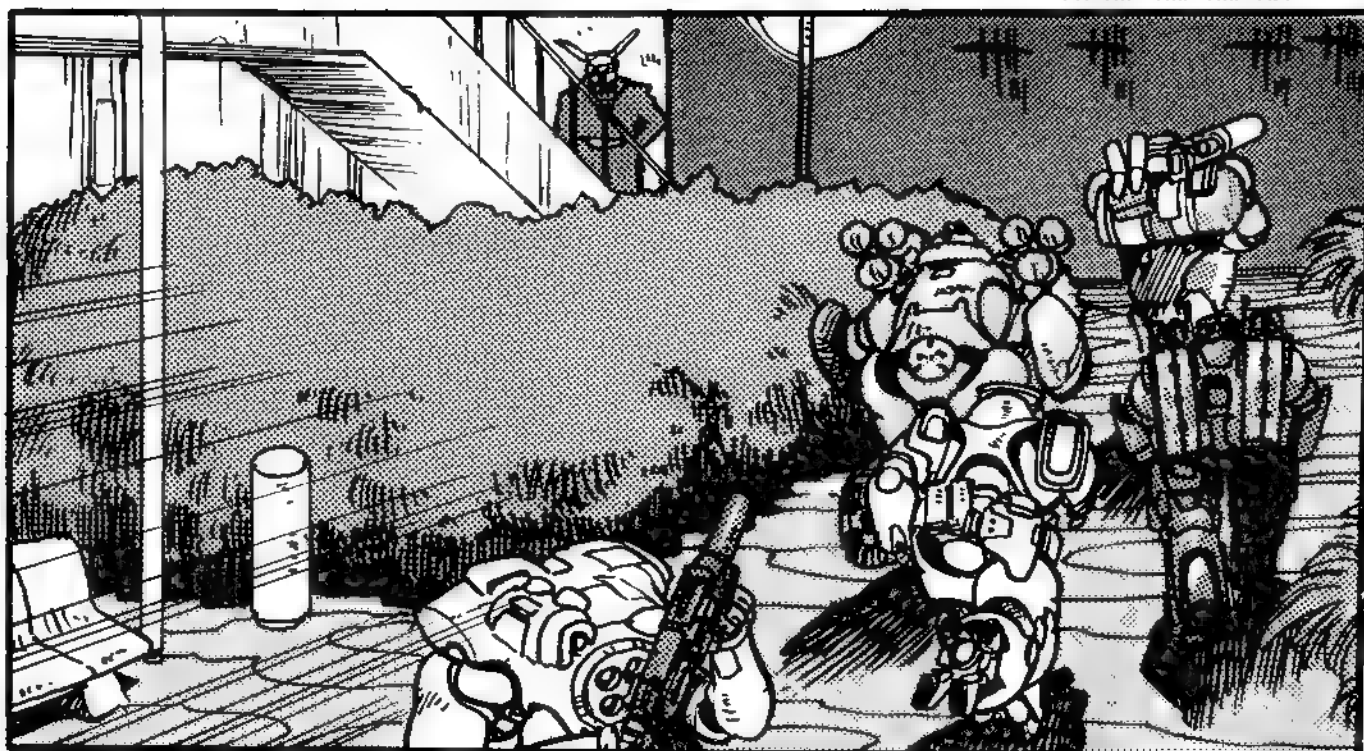
*FX VRZZT VZZT

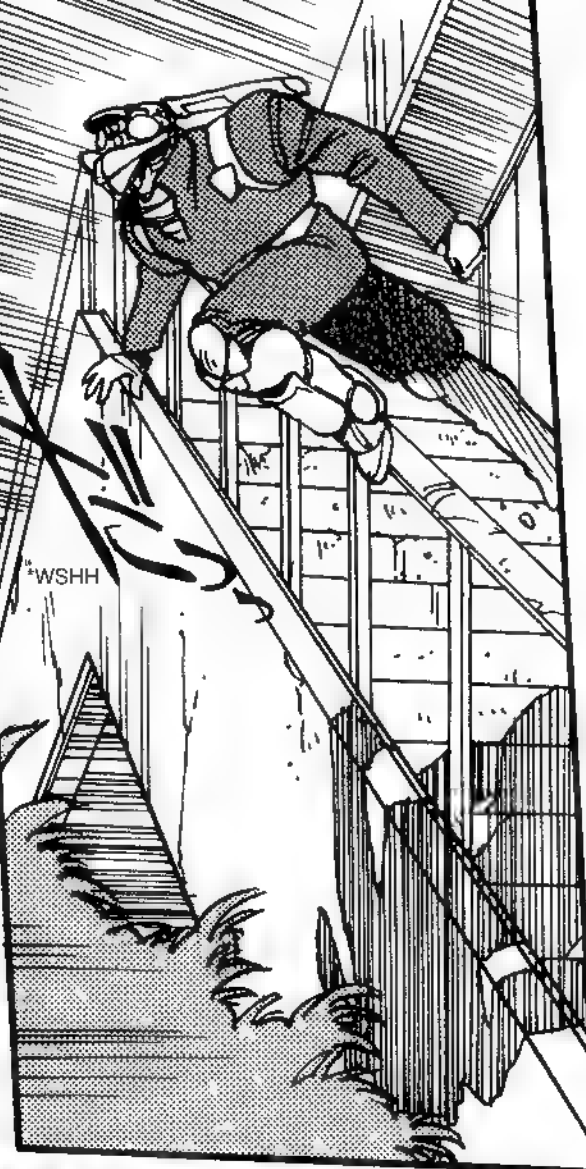
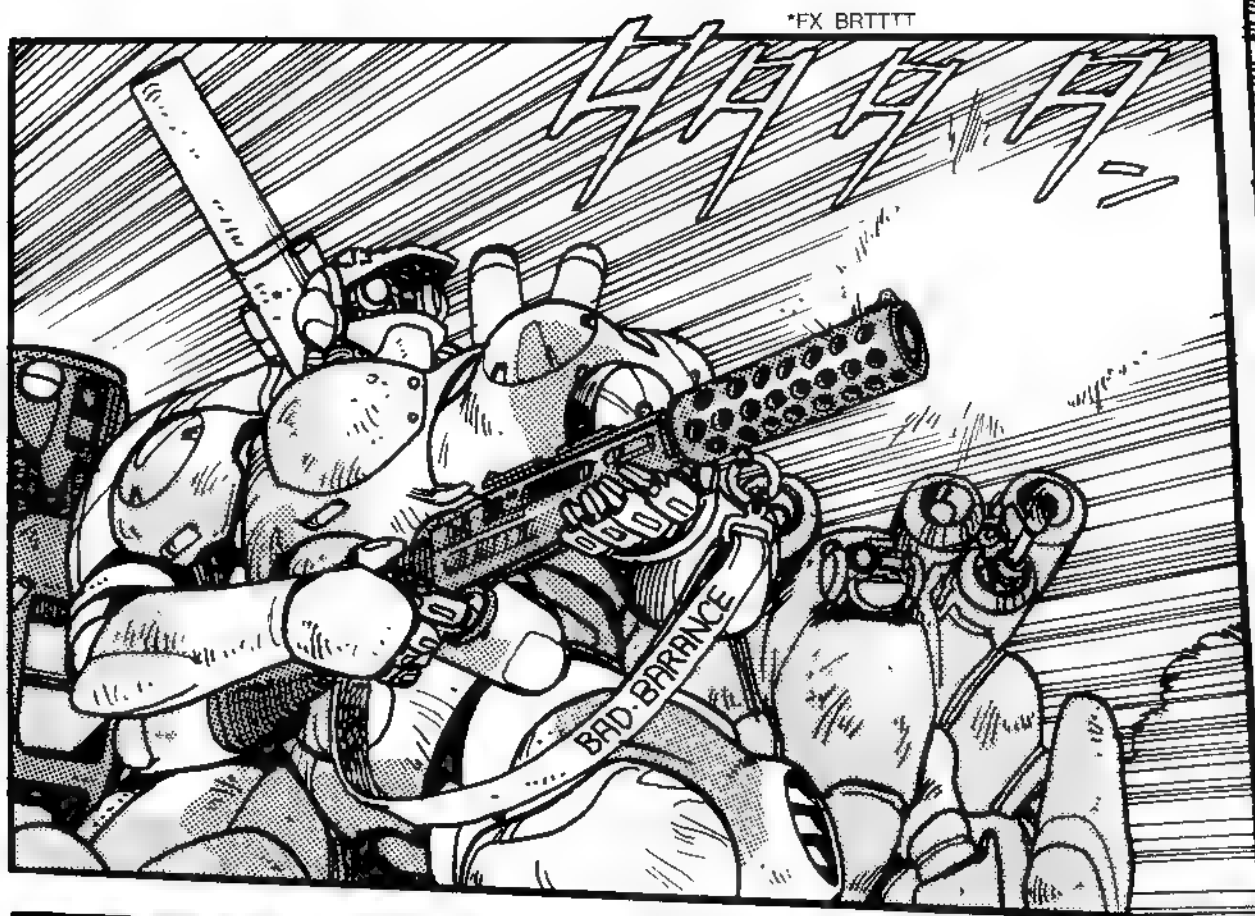
*FX VREEE

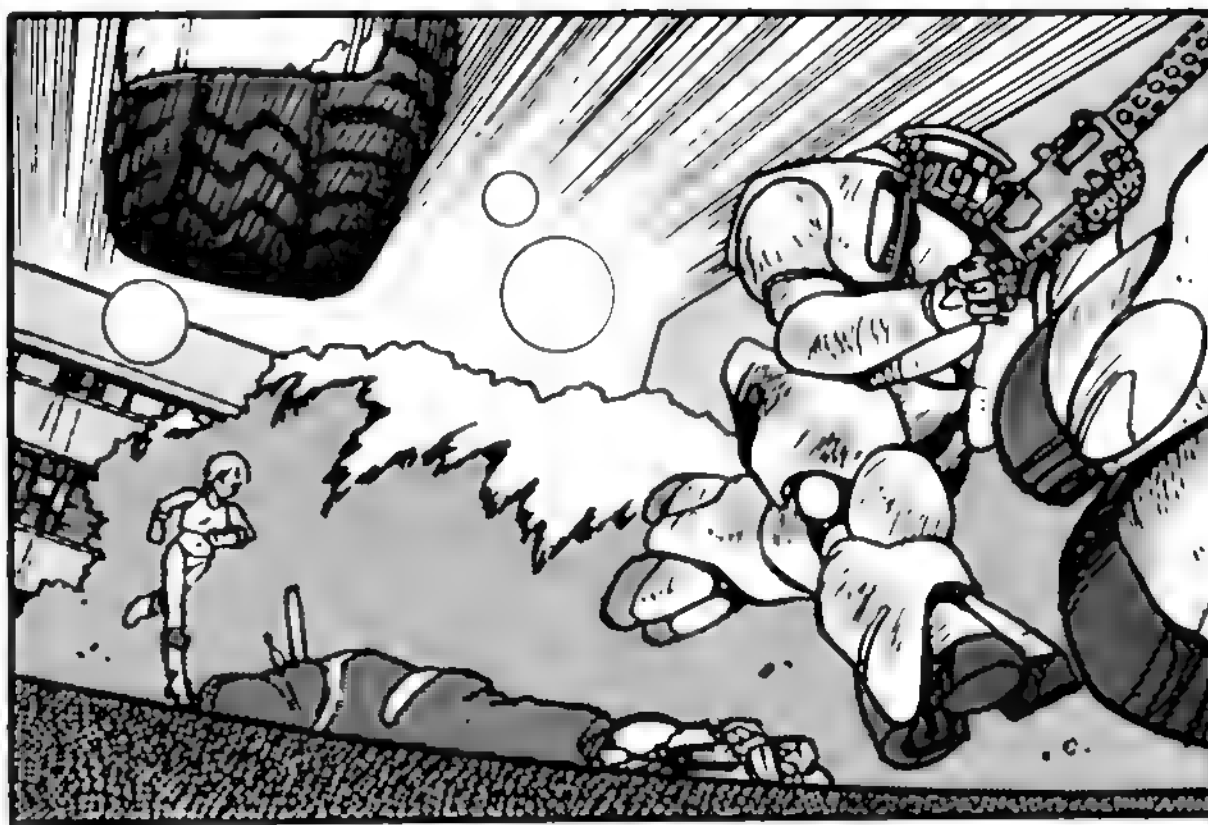
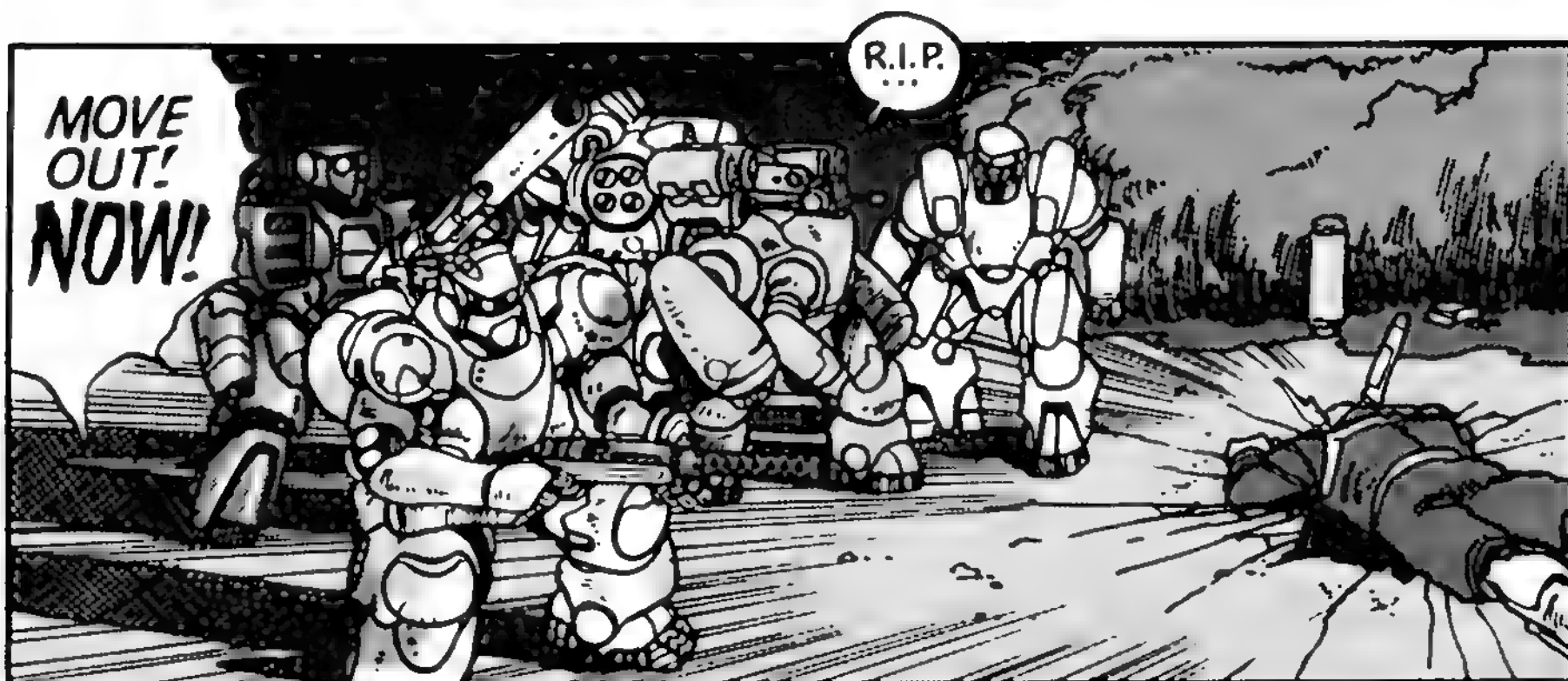


*KOHAK

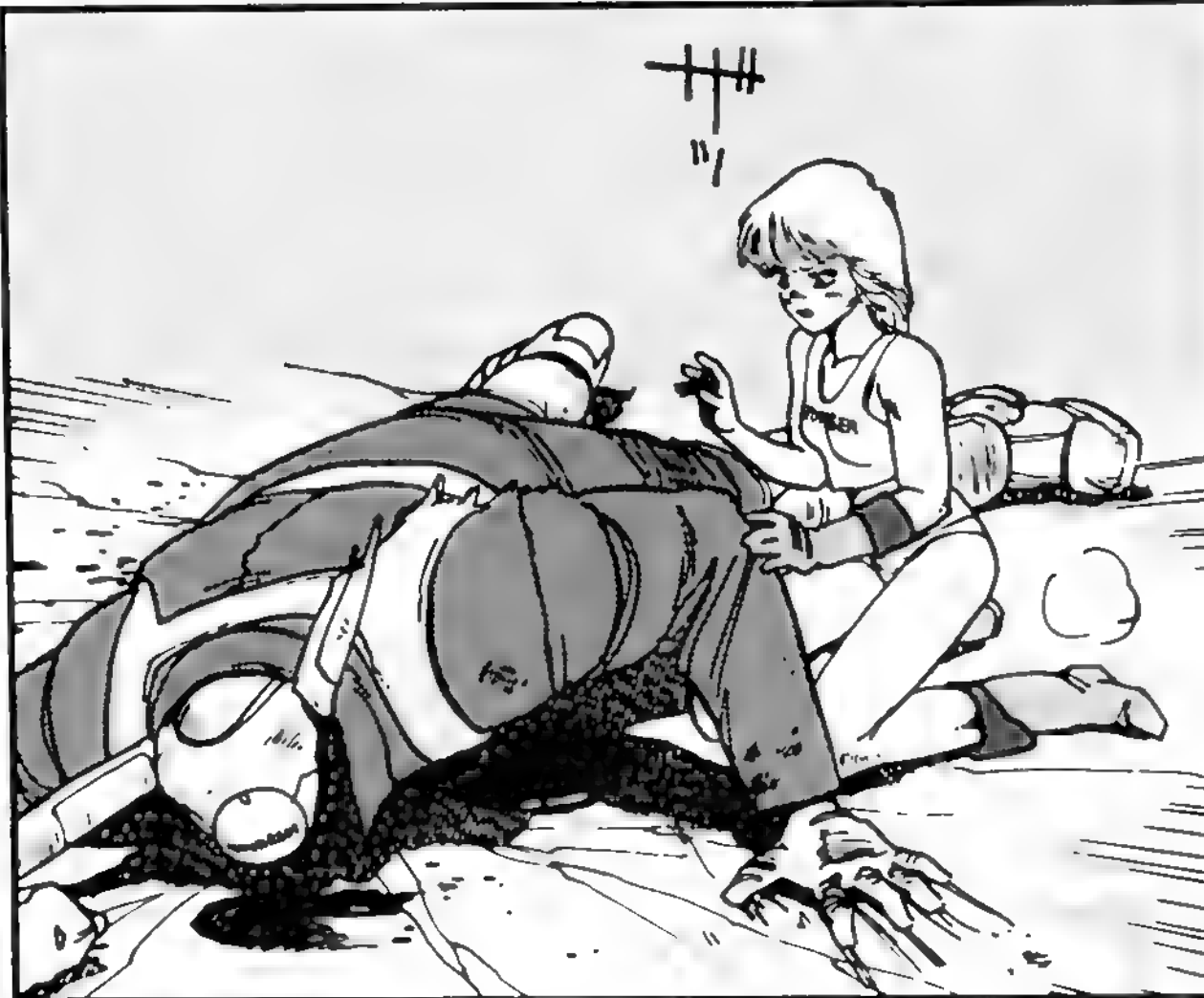
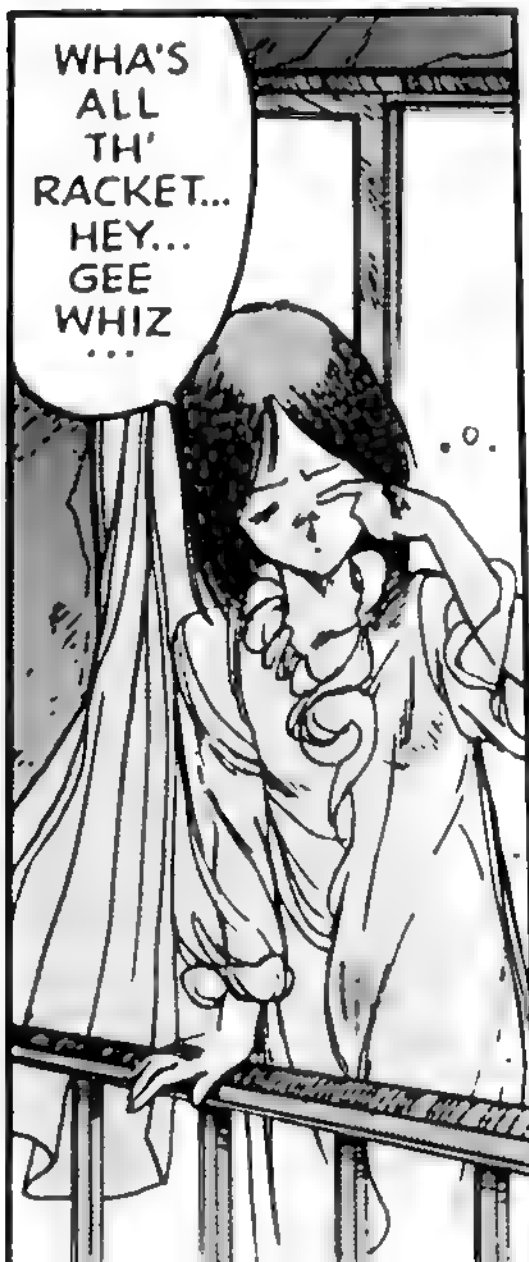


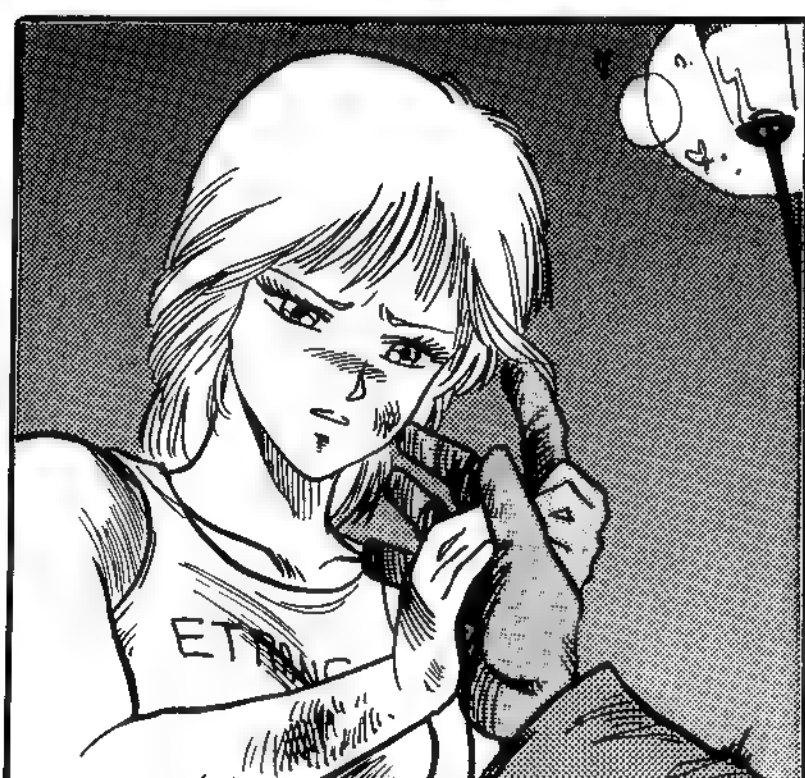
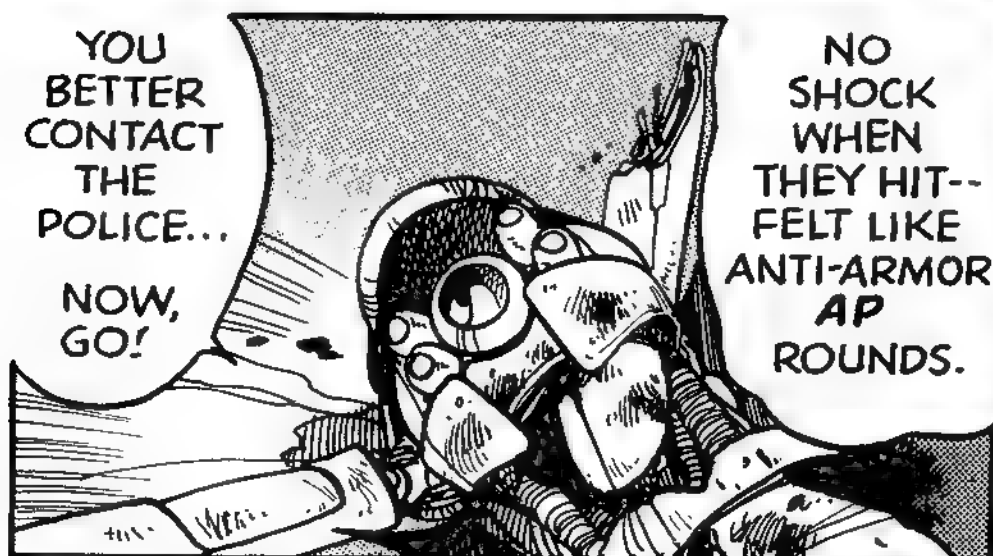
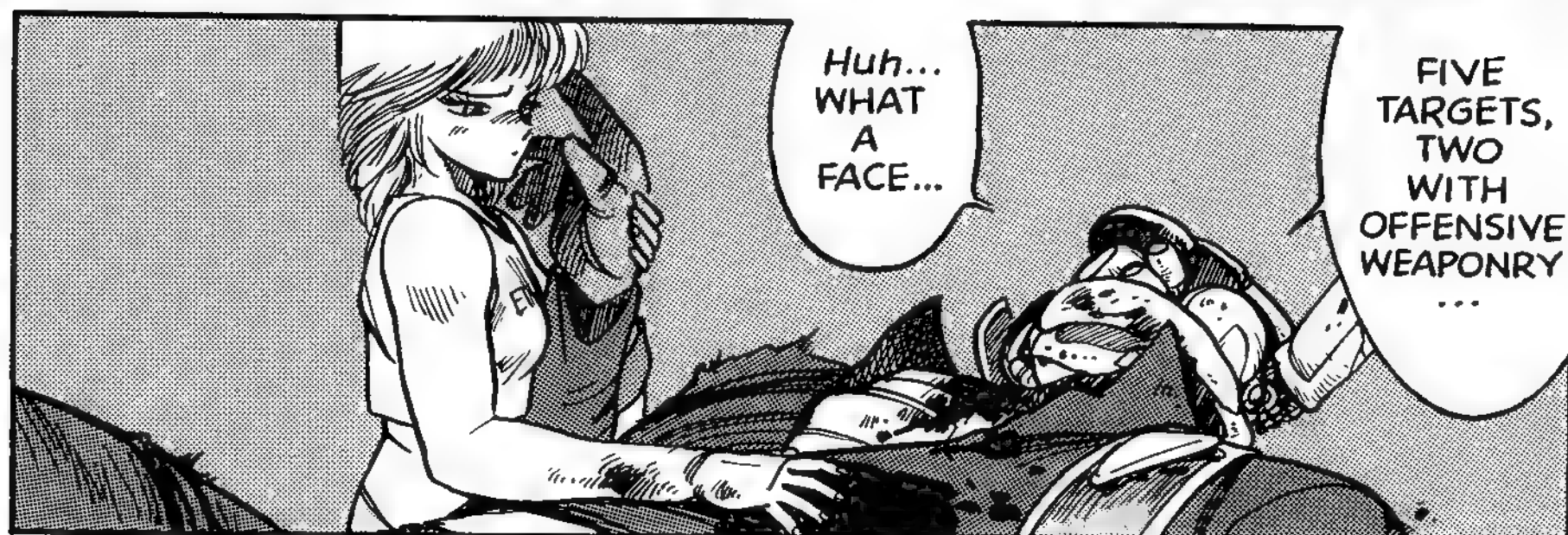
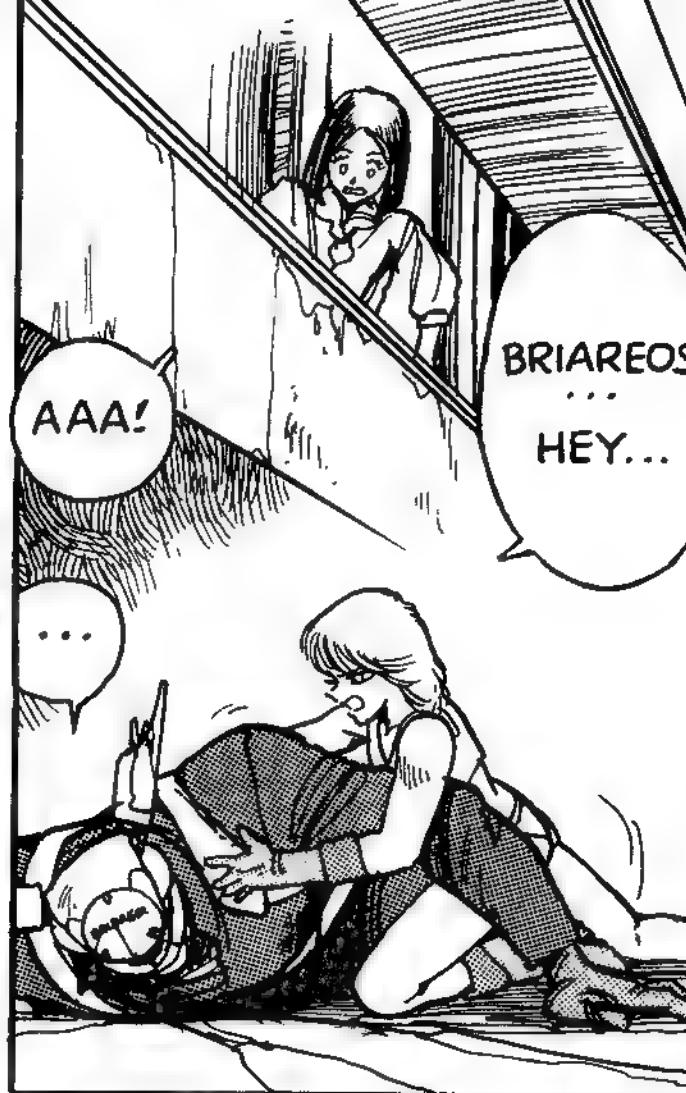
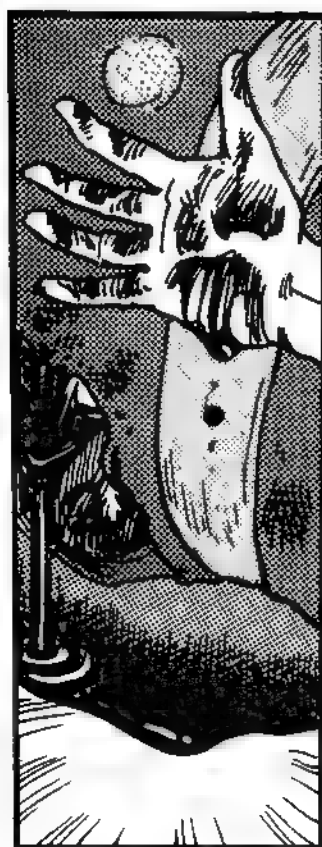






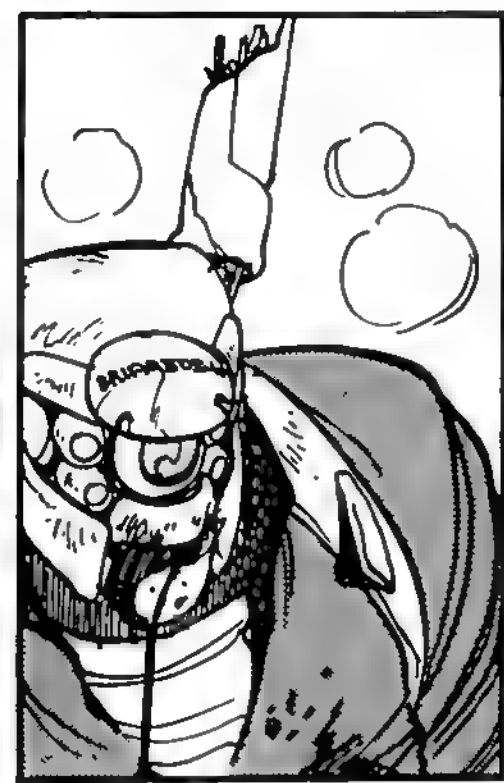
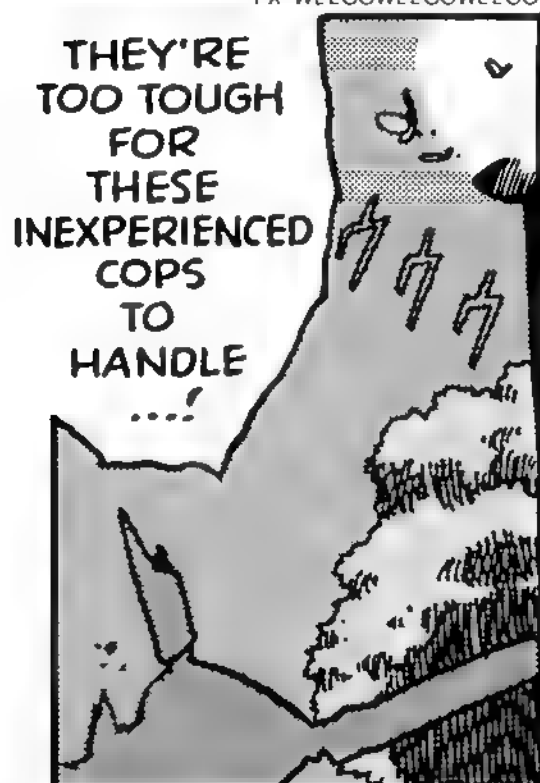
*FX: SKEE (off panel car brakes)



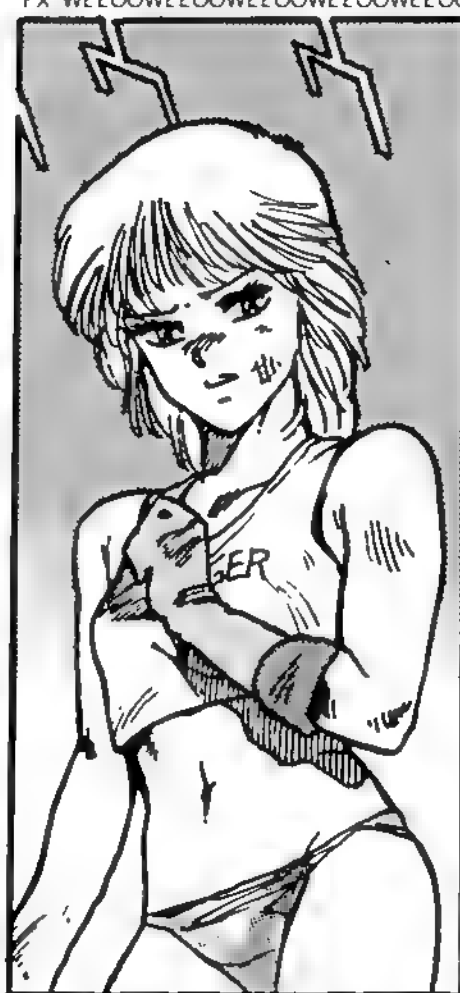
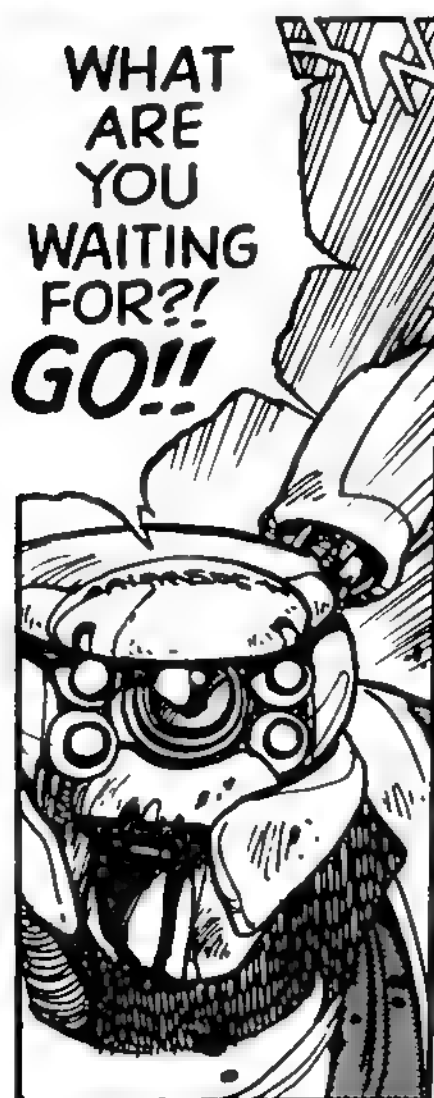


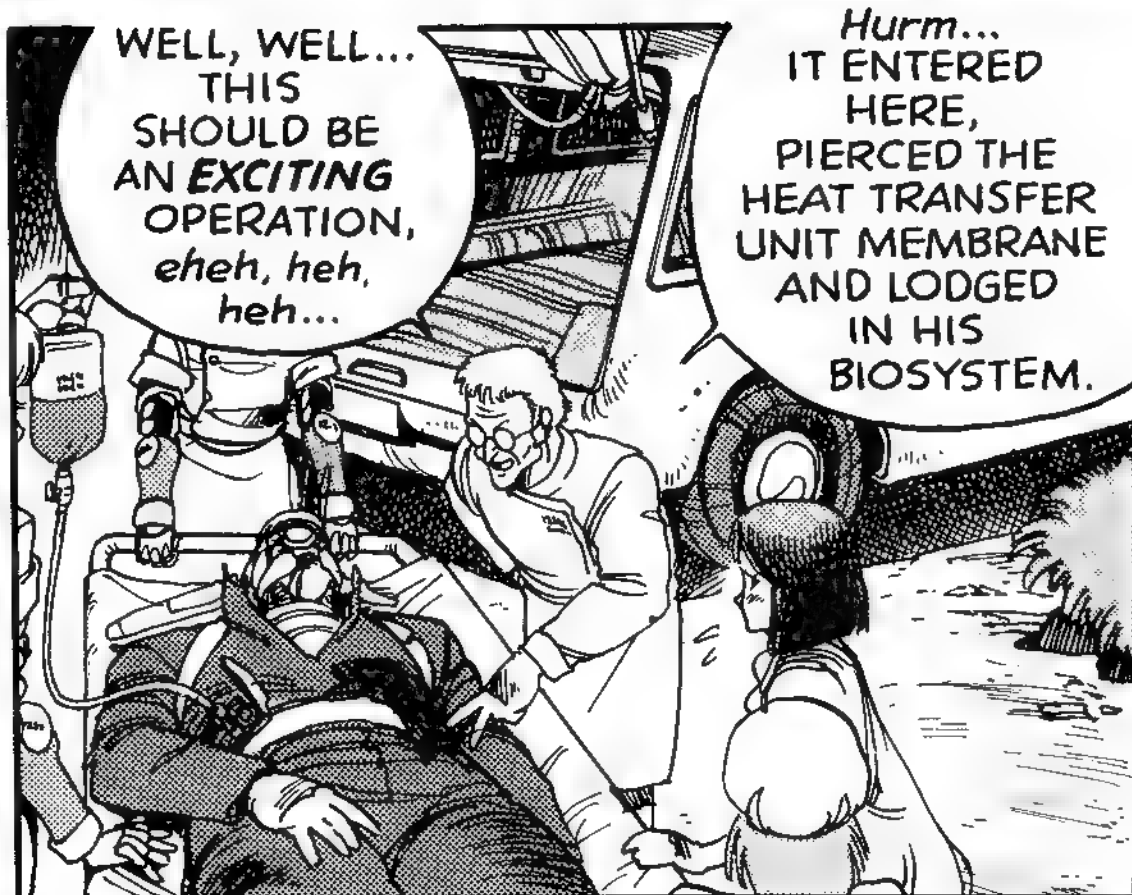
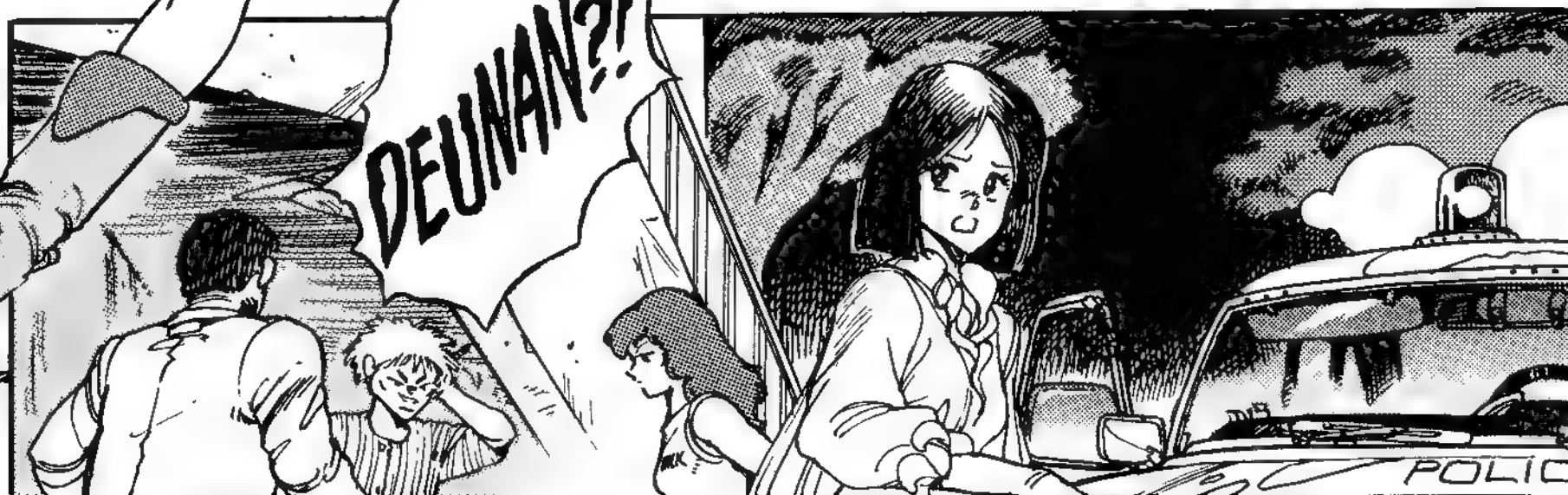
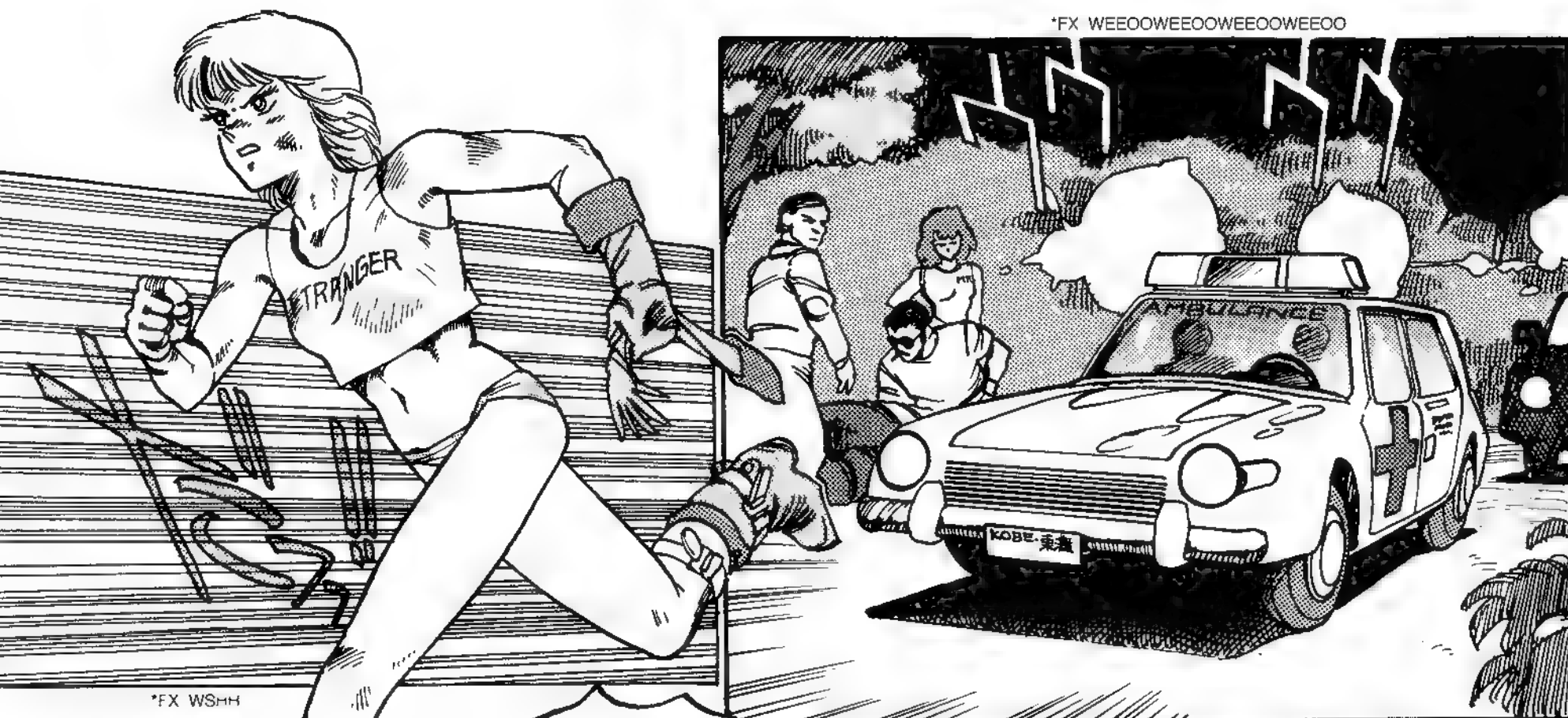


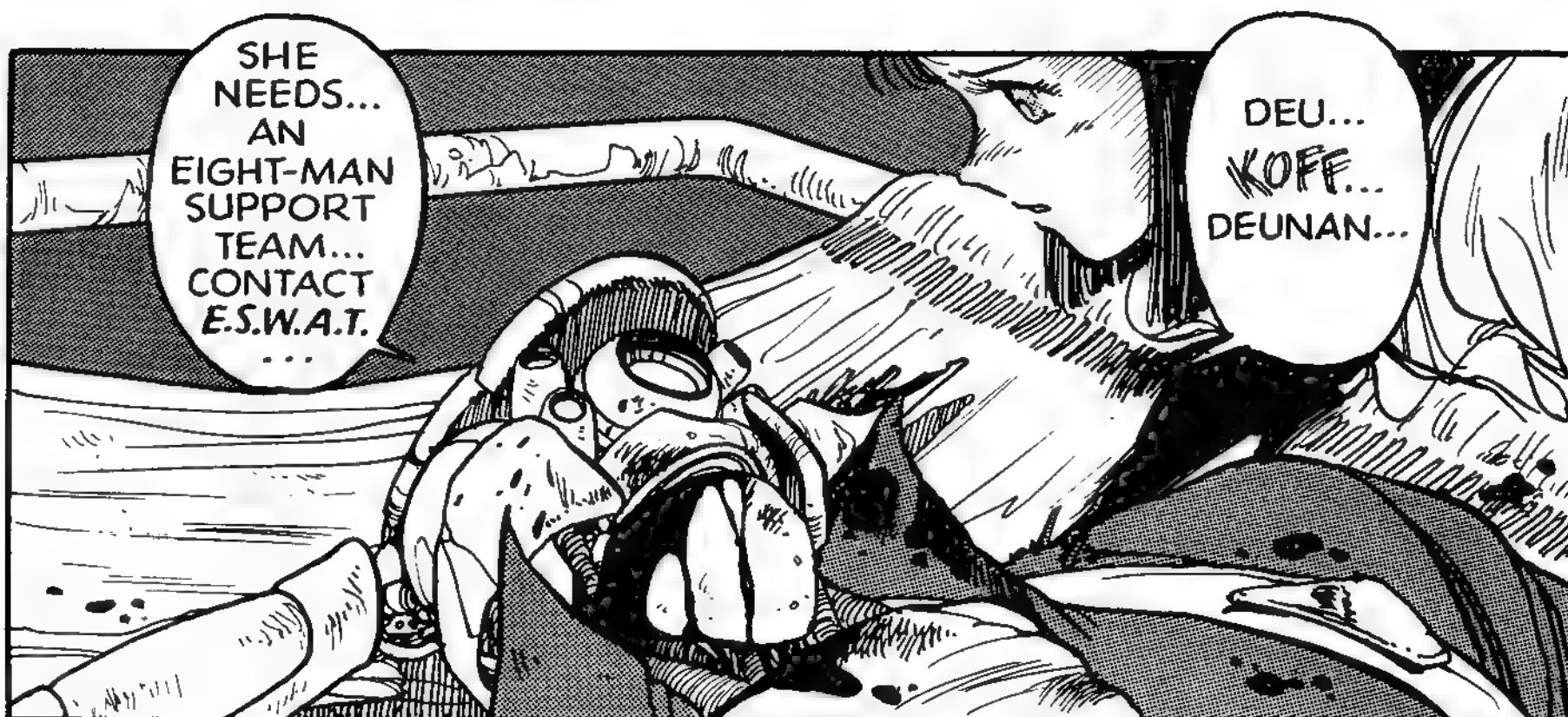
*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOO



*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOO



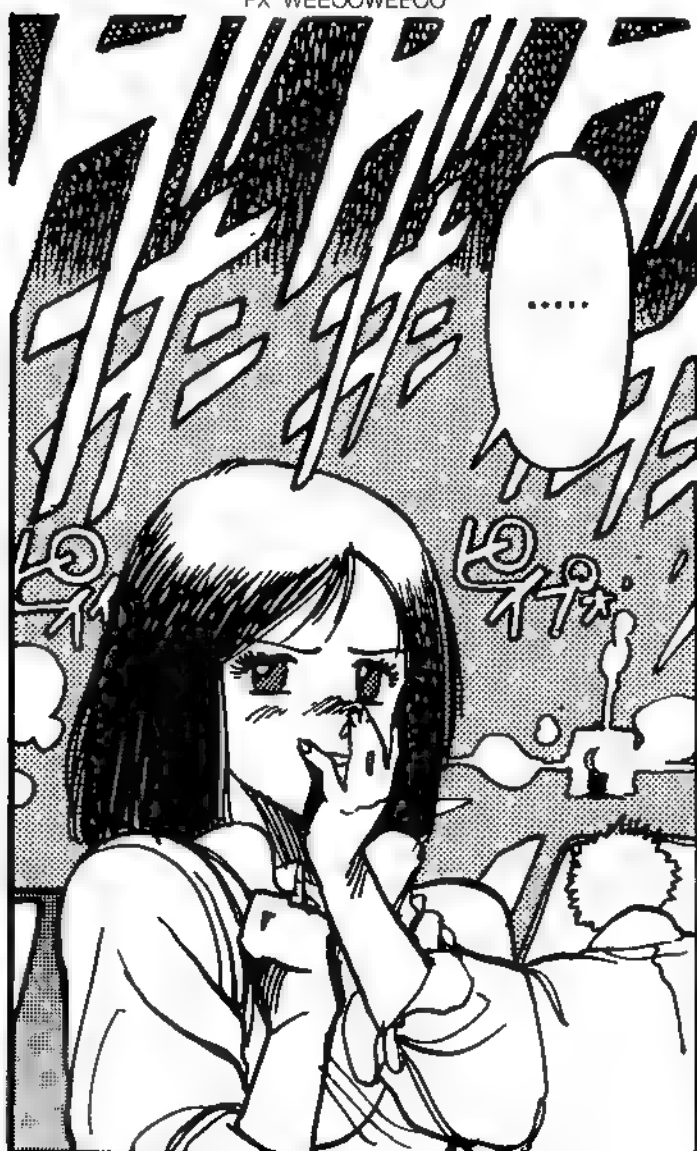




*FX WEEOWEEEOO

*FX UHK UHK

*FX VREEEEEEE

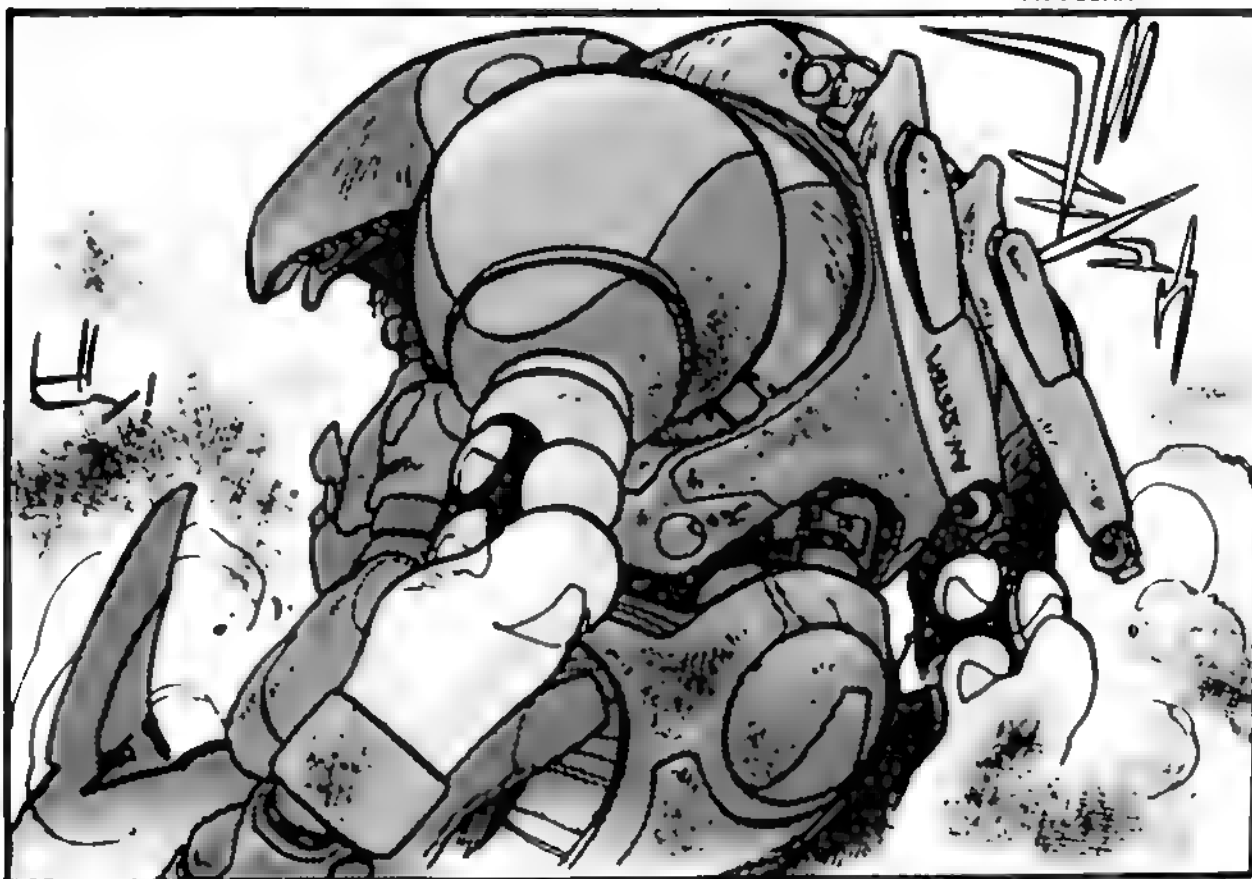


*FX BRMM BRMM

*FX VRMVRMVRM



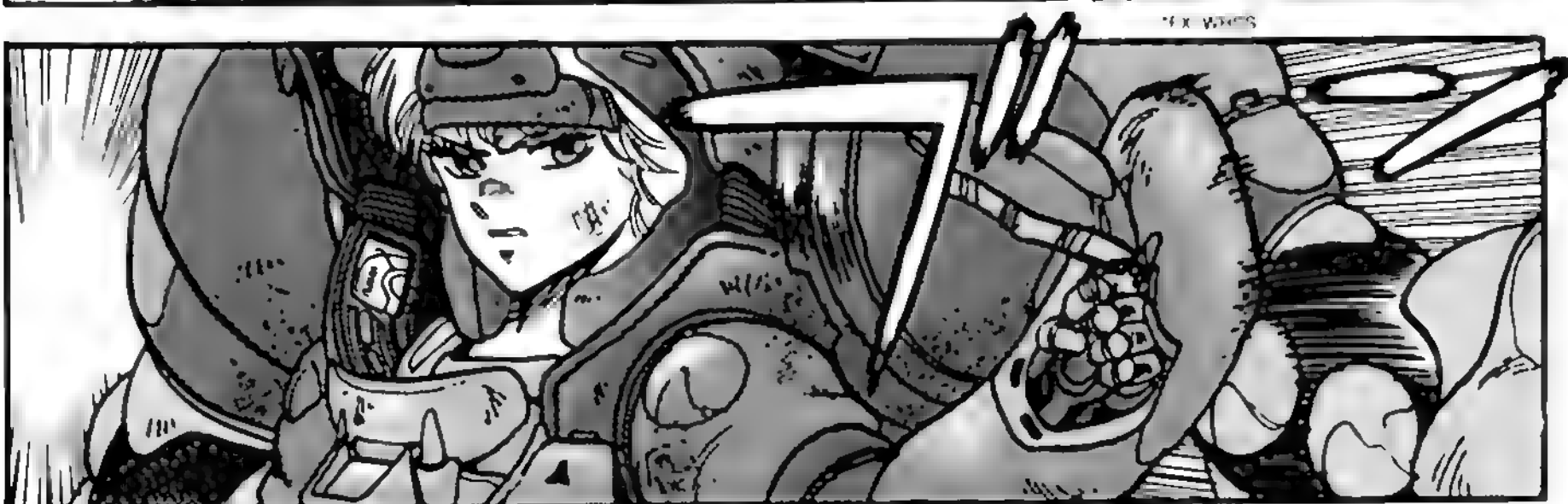
*FX SKREE



*FX FSSHH



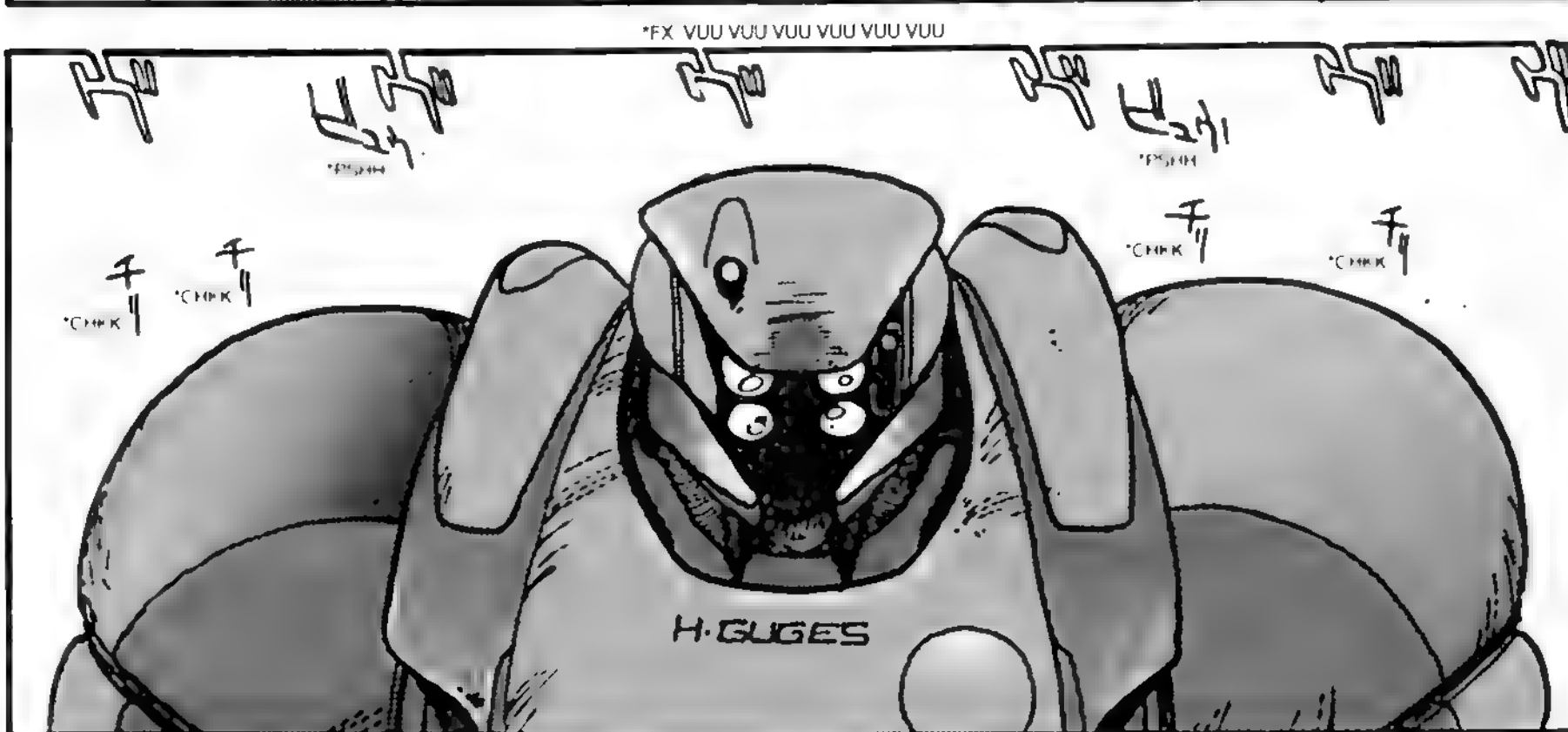
*FX VREEEE



*FX WHISS



*FX KACHK



*FX VUU VUU VUU VUU VUU VUU

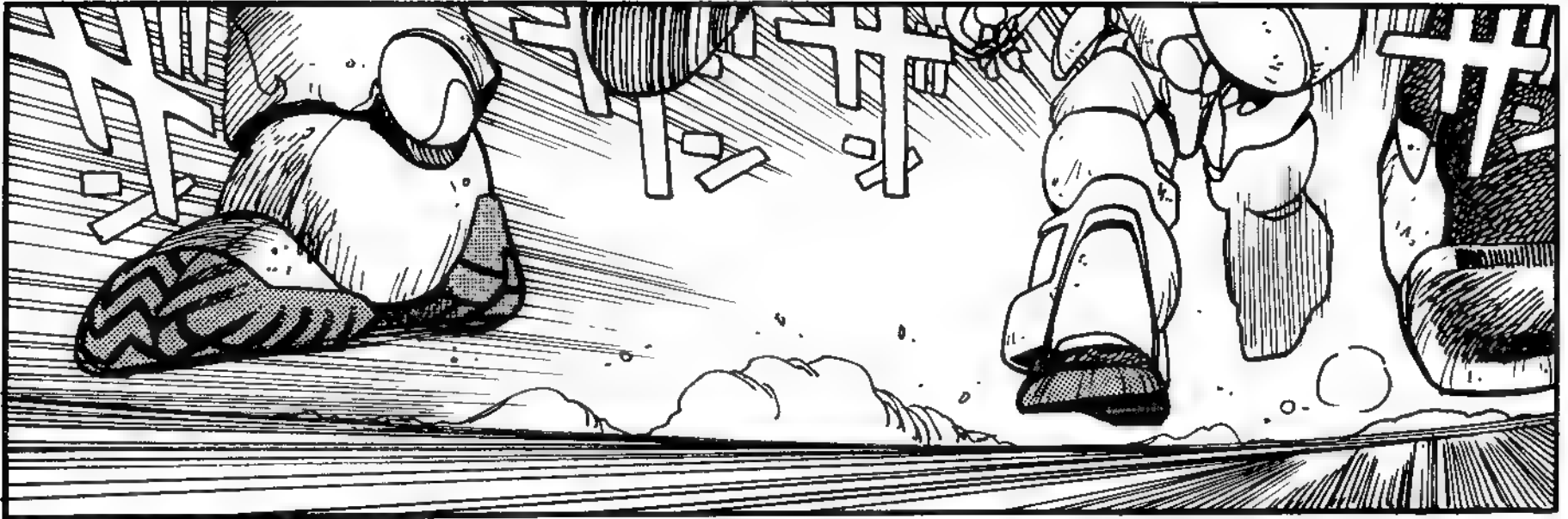
*CHKK

*CHKK

*CHKK

H. GUGES

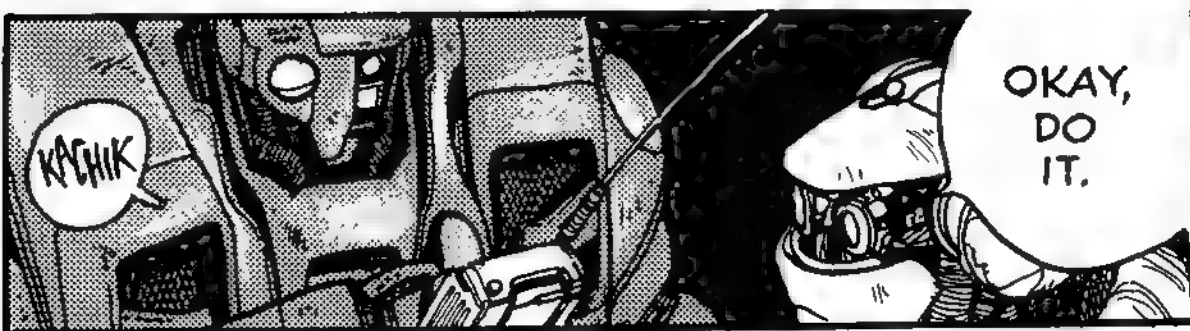
*FX. TMP TMP TMP TMP



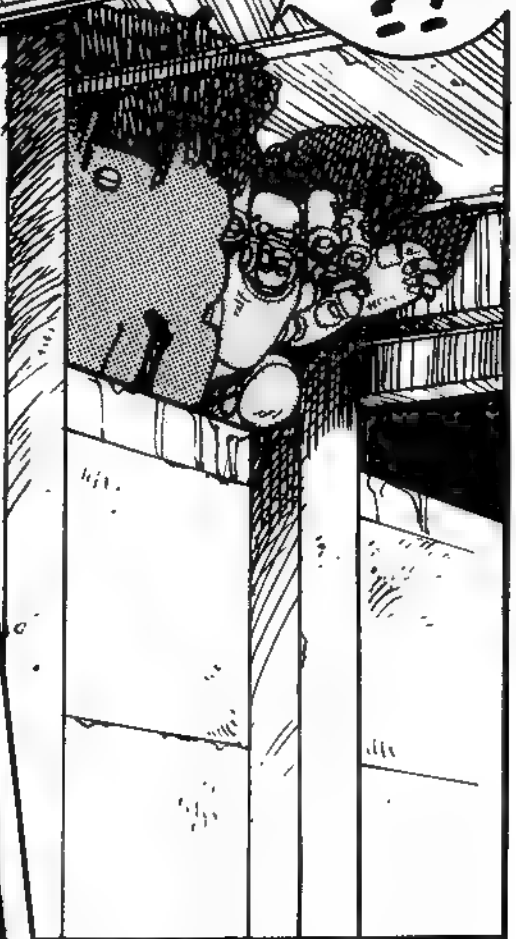
*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEO



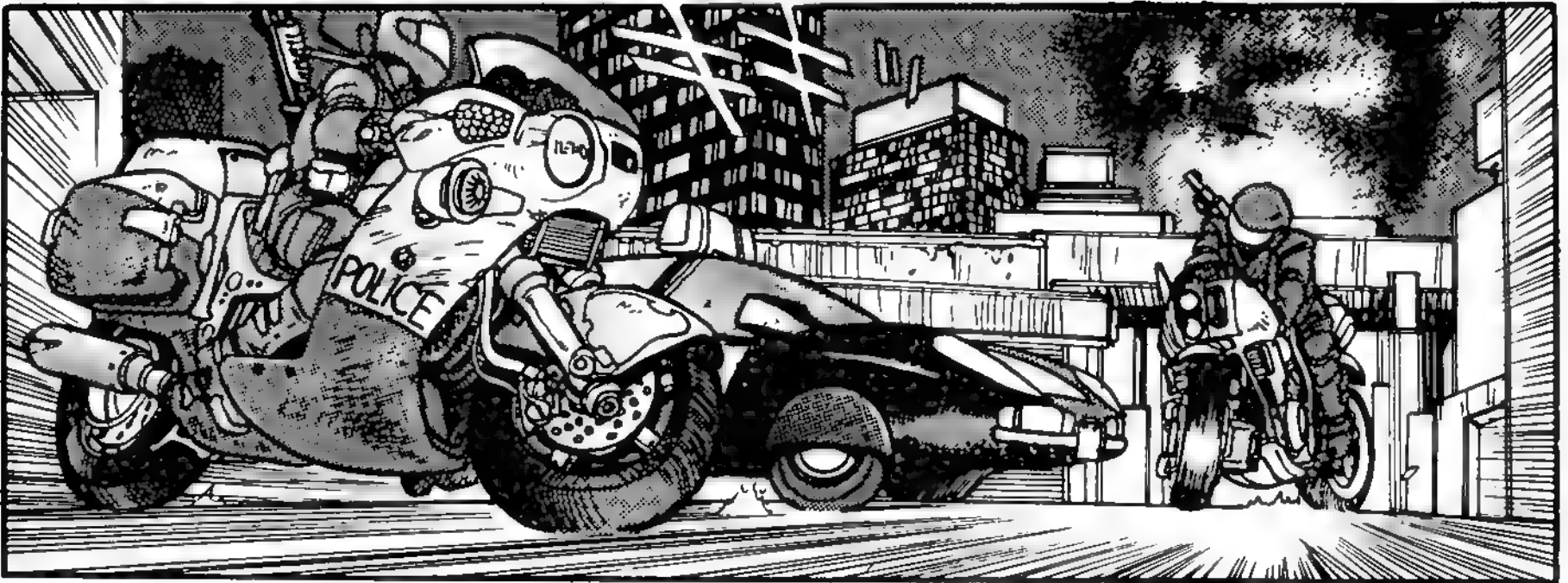
*FX WEEEOOWEEEO



*FX WHOOM

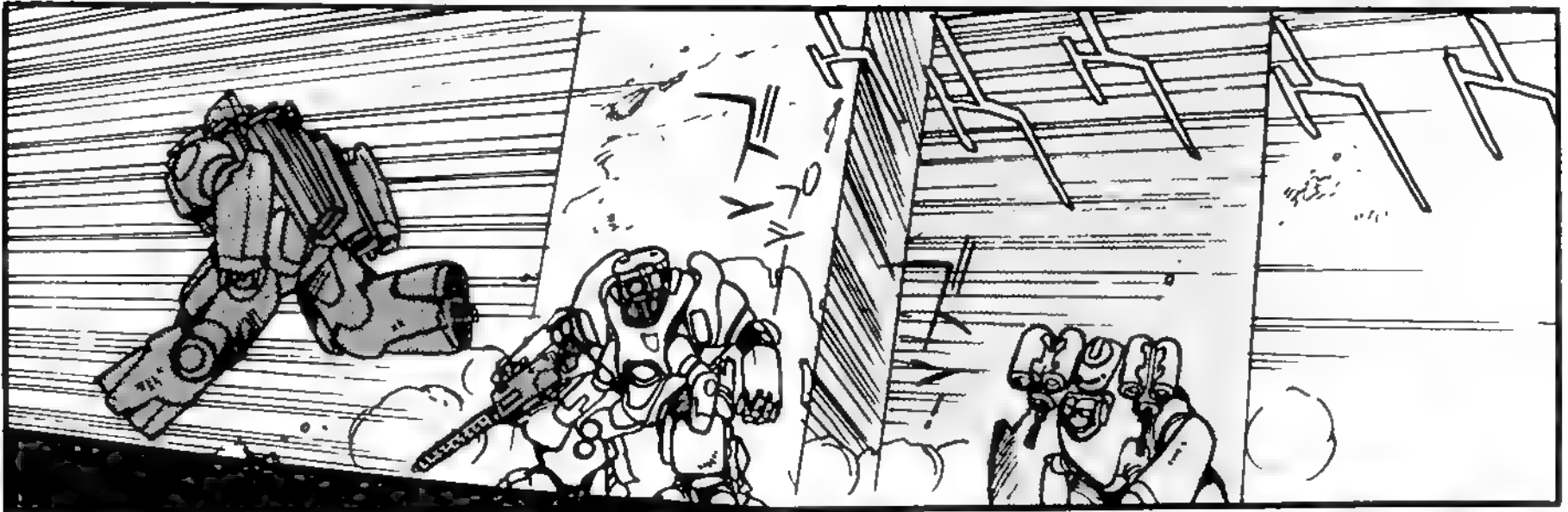


*FX SQUEE SQUEE



*FX PSHH

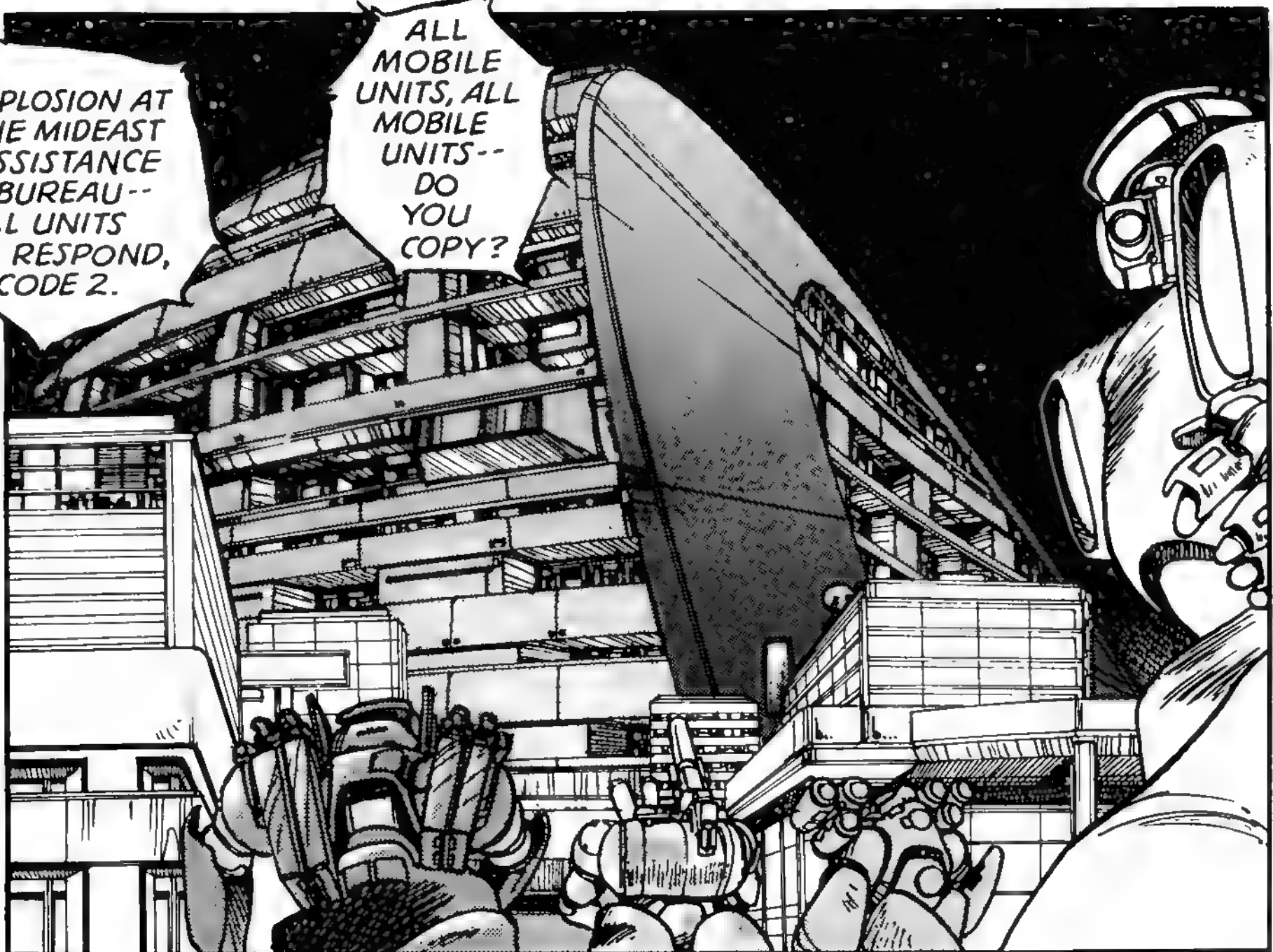
*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOO



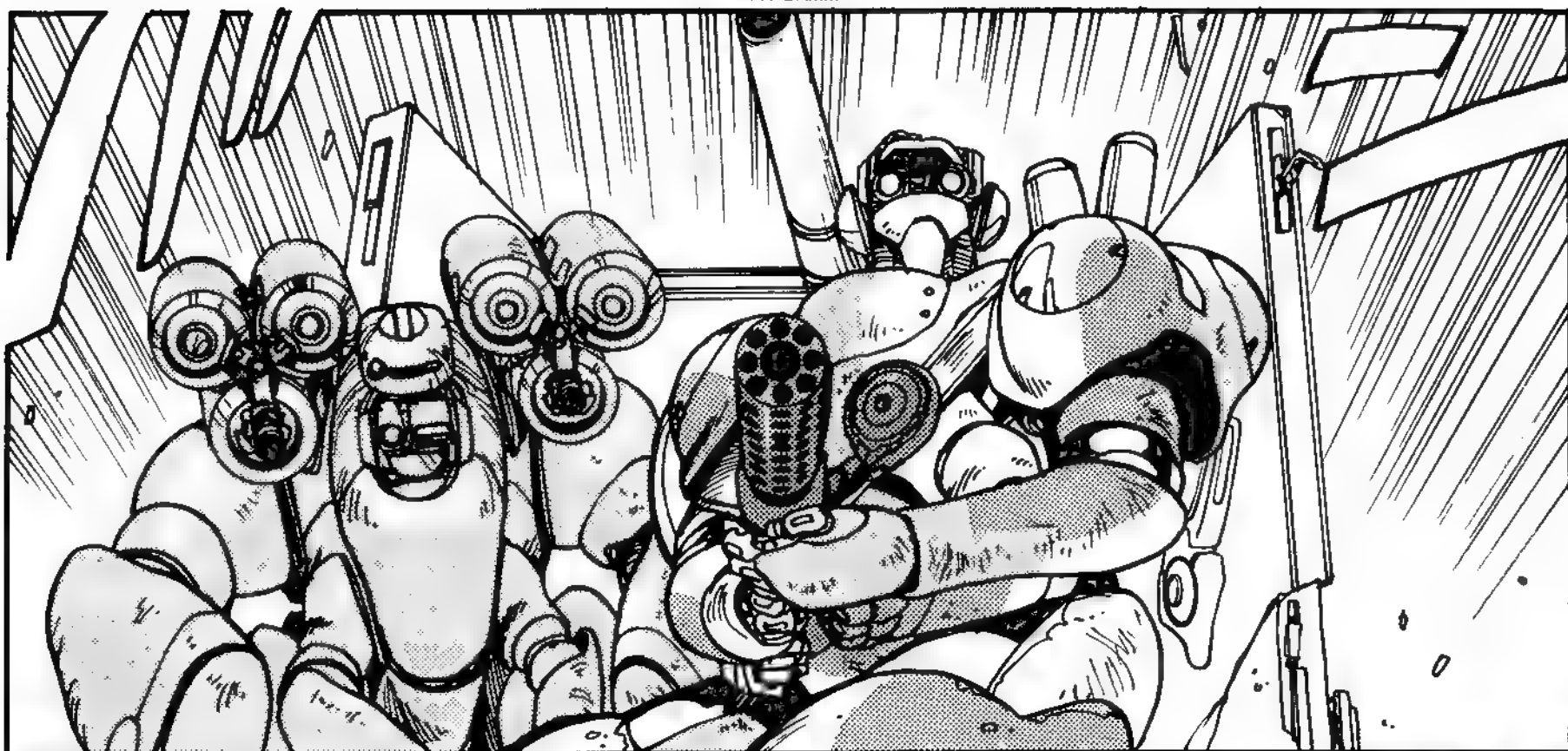
*FX SHOOM SHOOM

EXPLOSION AT
THE MIDEAST
ASSISTANCE
BUREAU--
ALL UNITS
RESPOND,
CODE 2.

ALL
MOBILE
UNITS, ALL
MOBILE
UNITS--
DO
YOU
COPY?



*FX BAMB

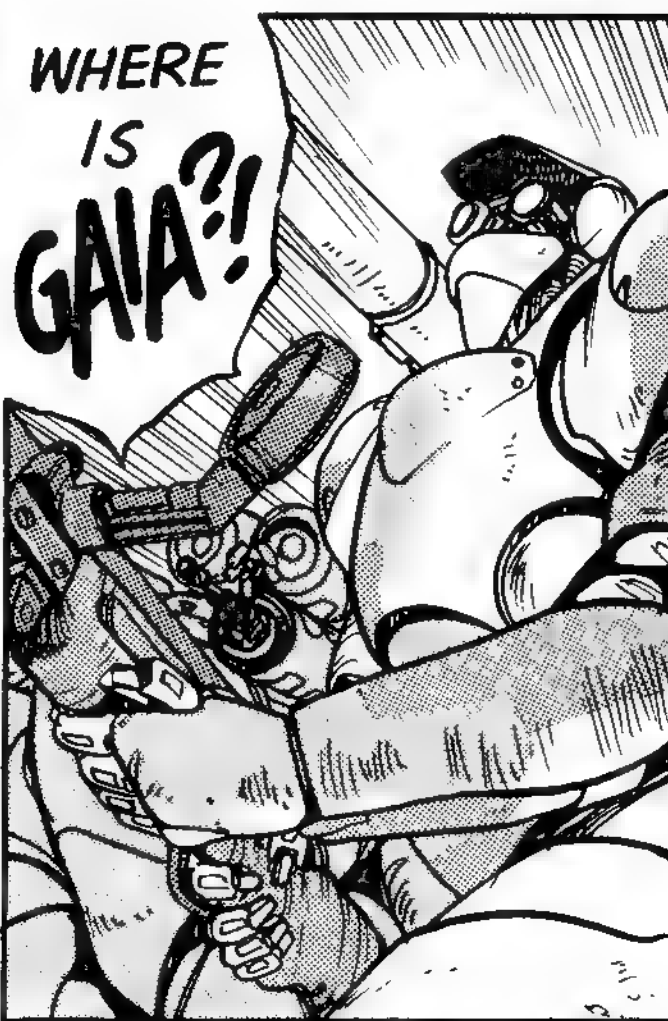


*FX KRUMBLE KRUMBLE

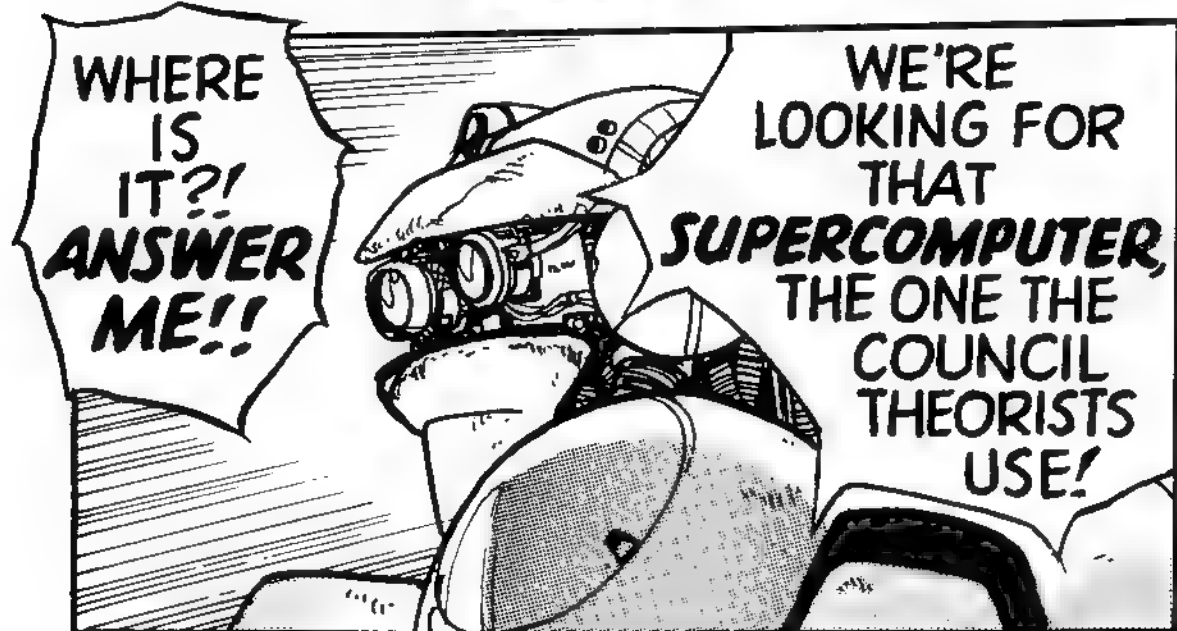


YOU
SHOULD
KNOCK
BEFORE
ENTERING
...

WHERE
ARE
YOUR
MANNERS?

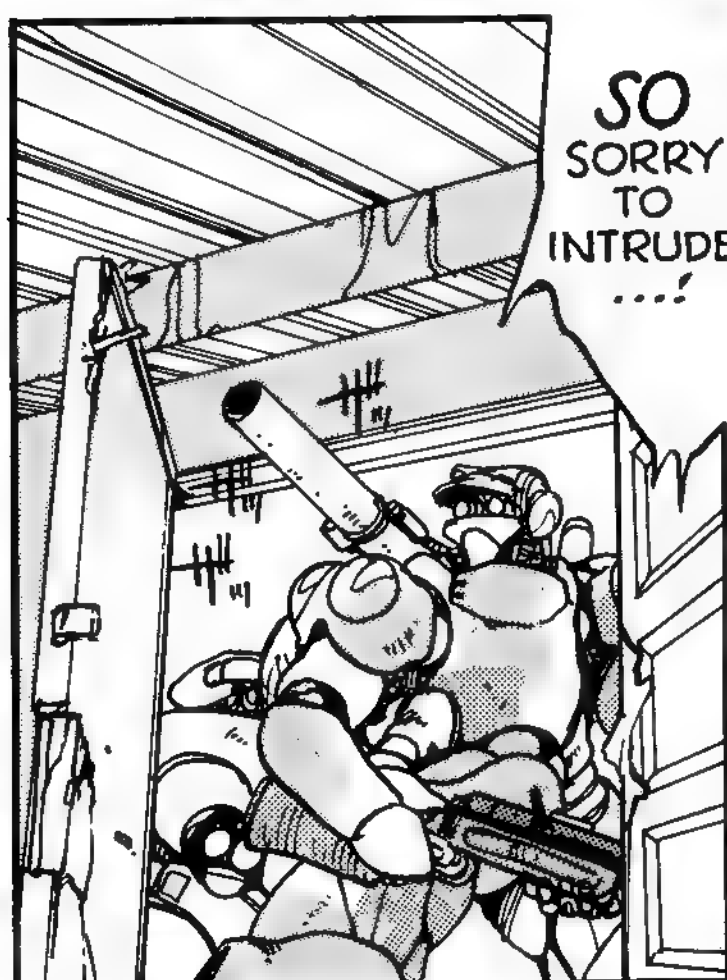
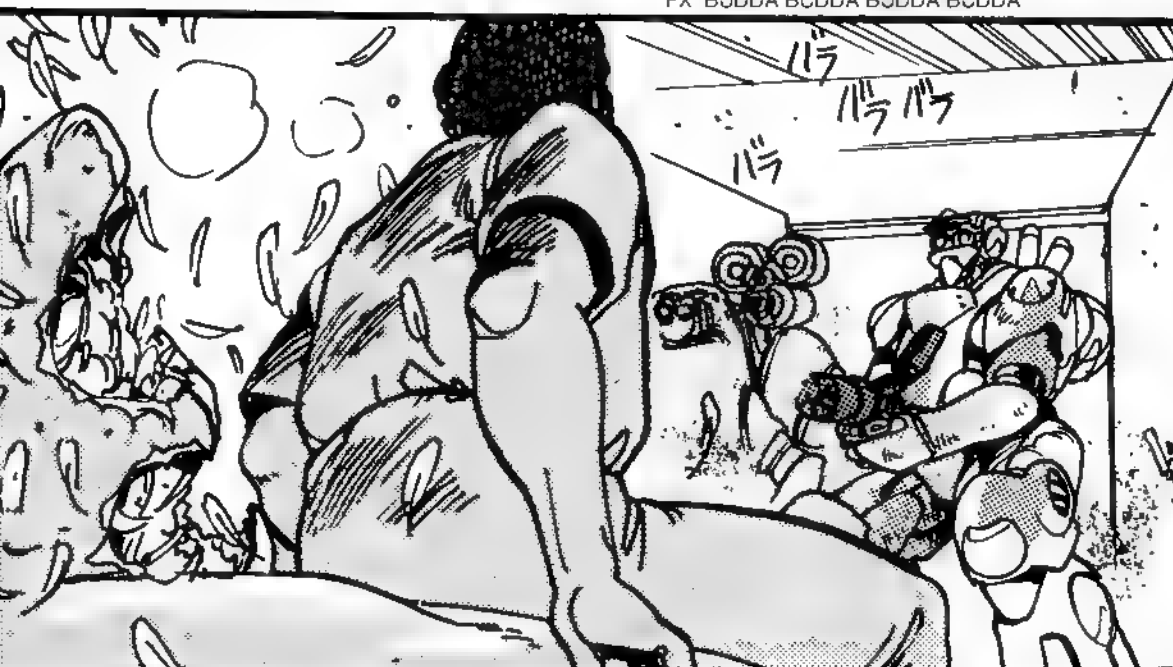


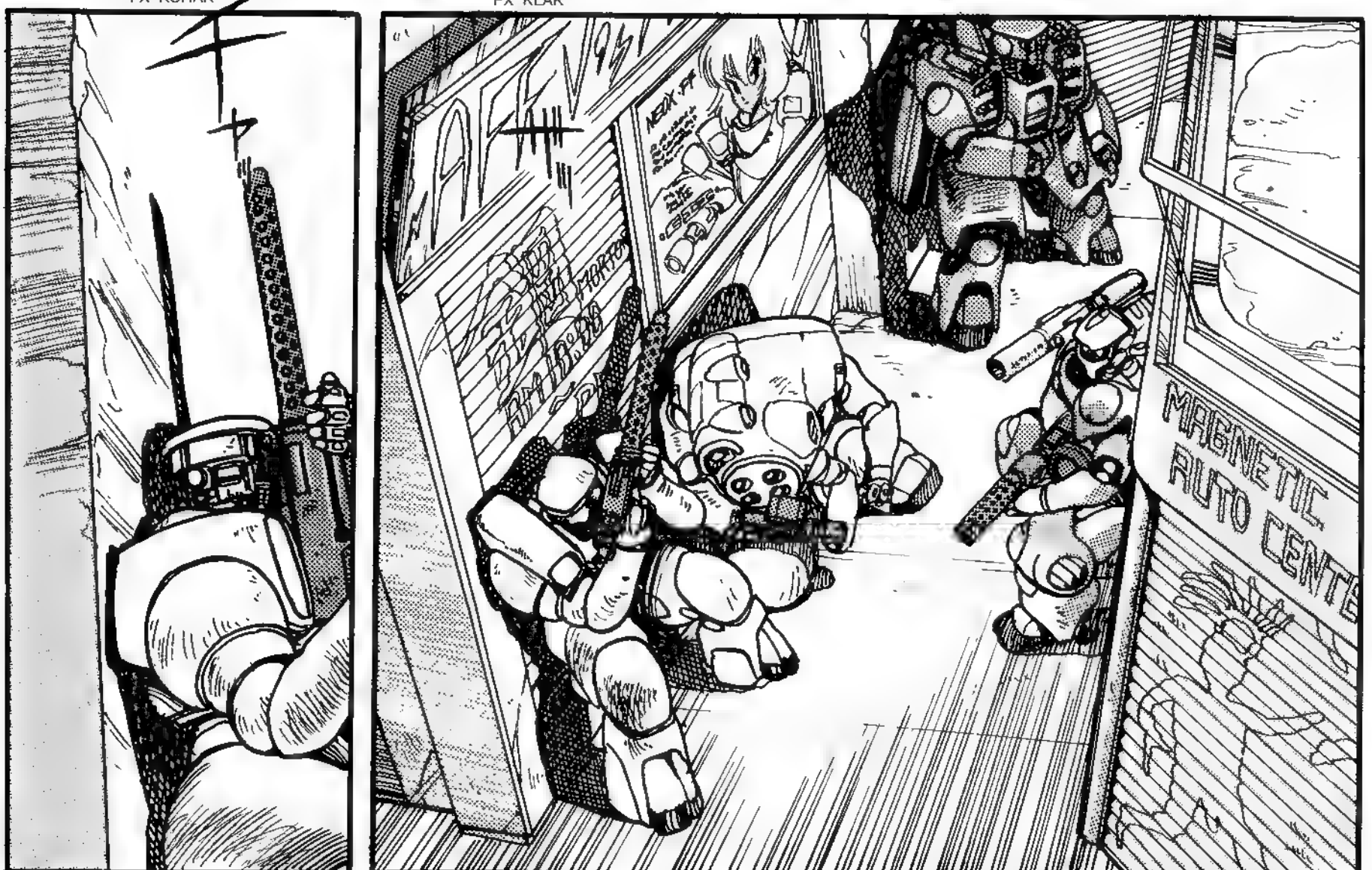
WHERE
IS
GAIA?!

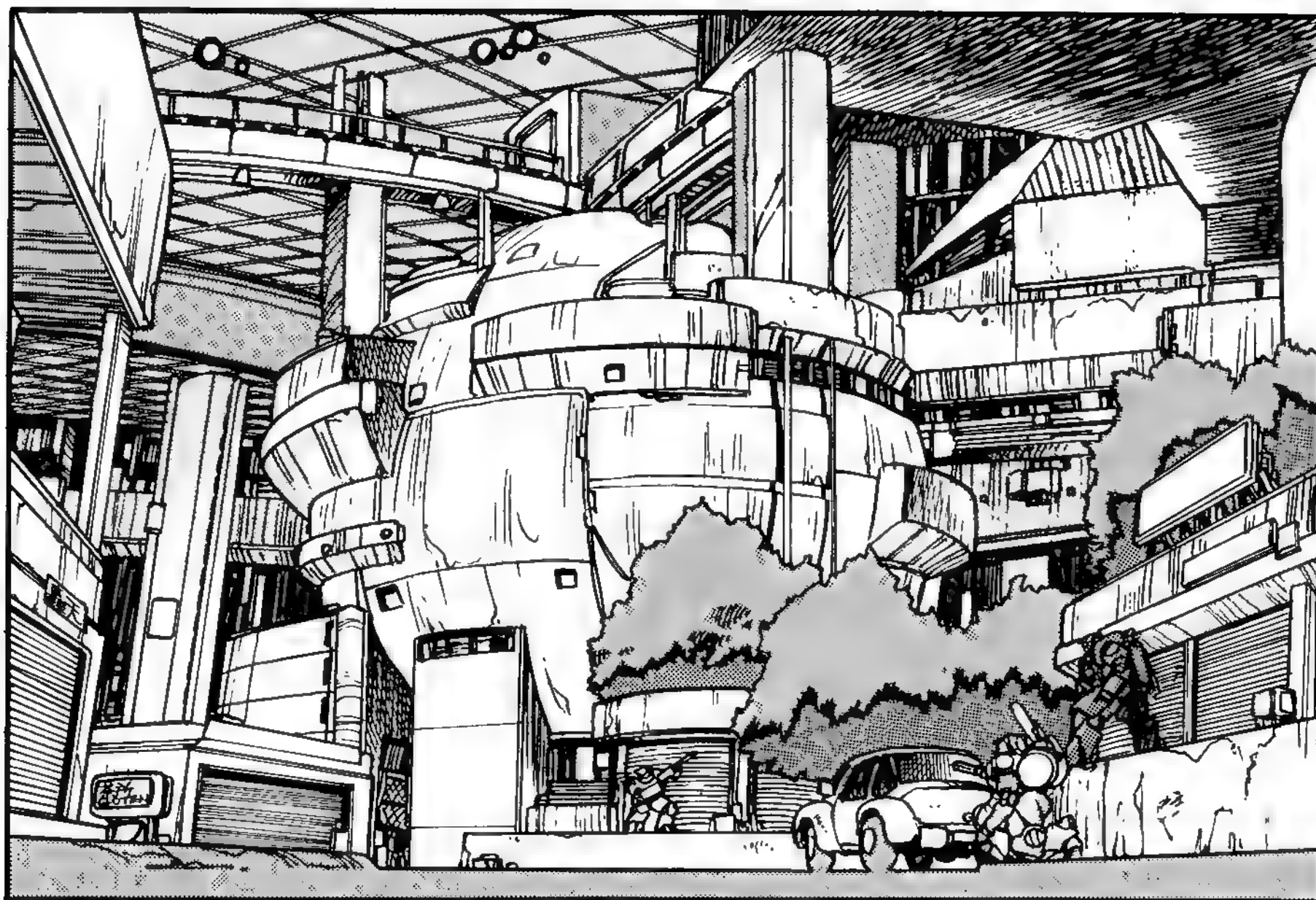


WHERE
IS
IT?!
ANSWER
ME!!

WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
THAT
SUPERCOMPUTER,
THE ONE THE
COUNCIL
THEORISTS
USE!

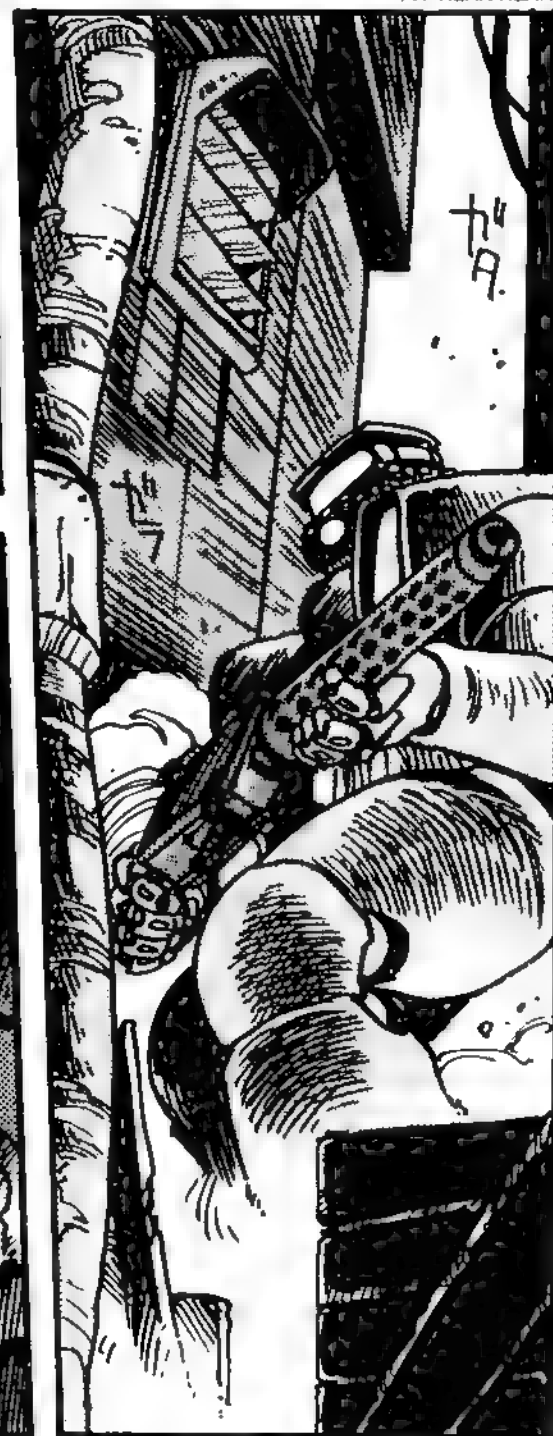
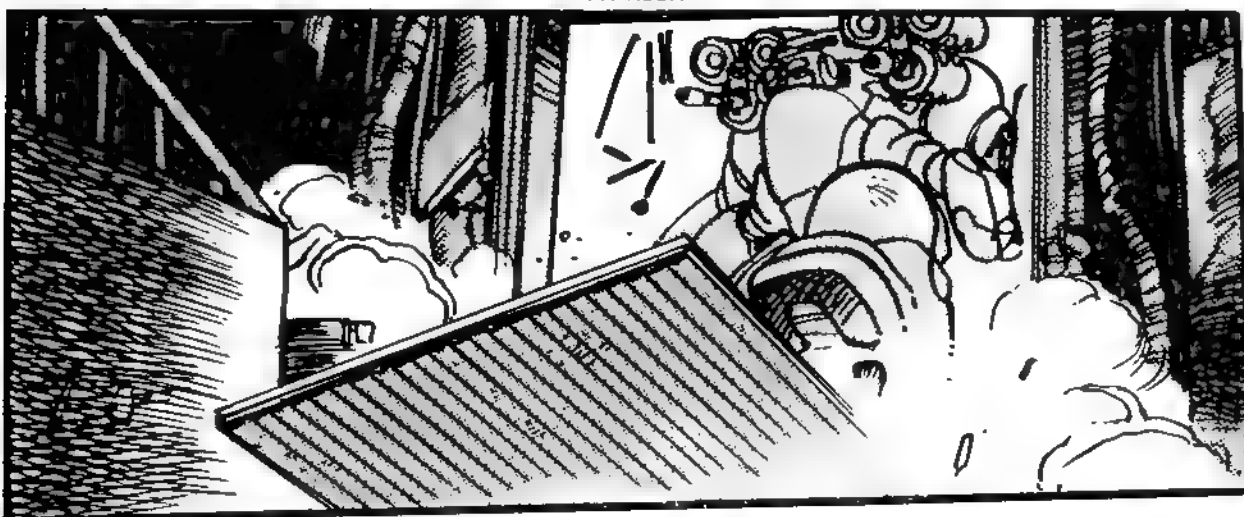


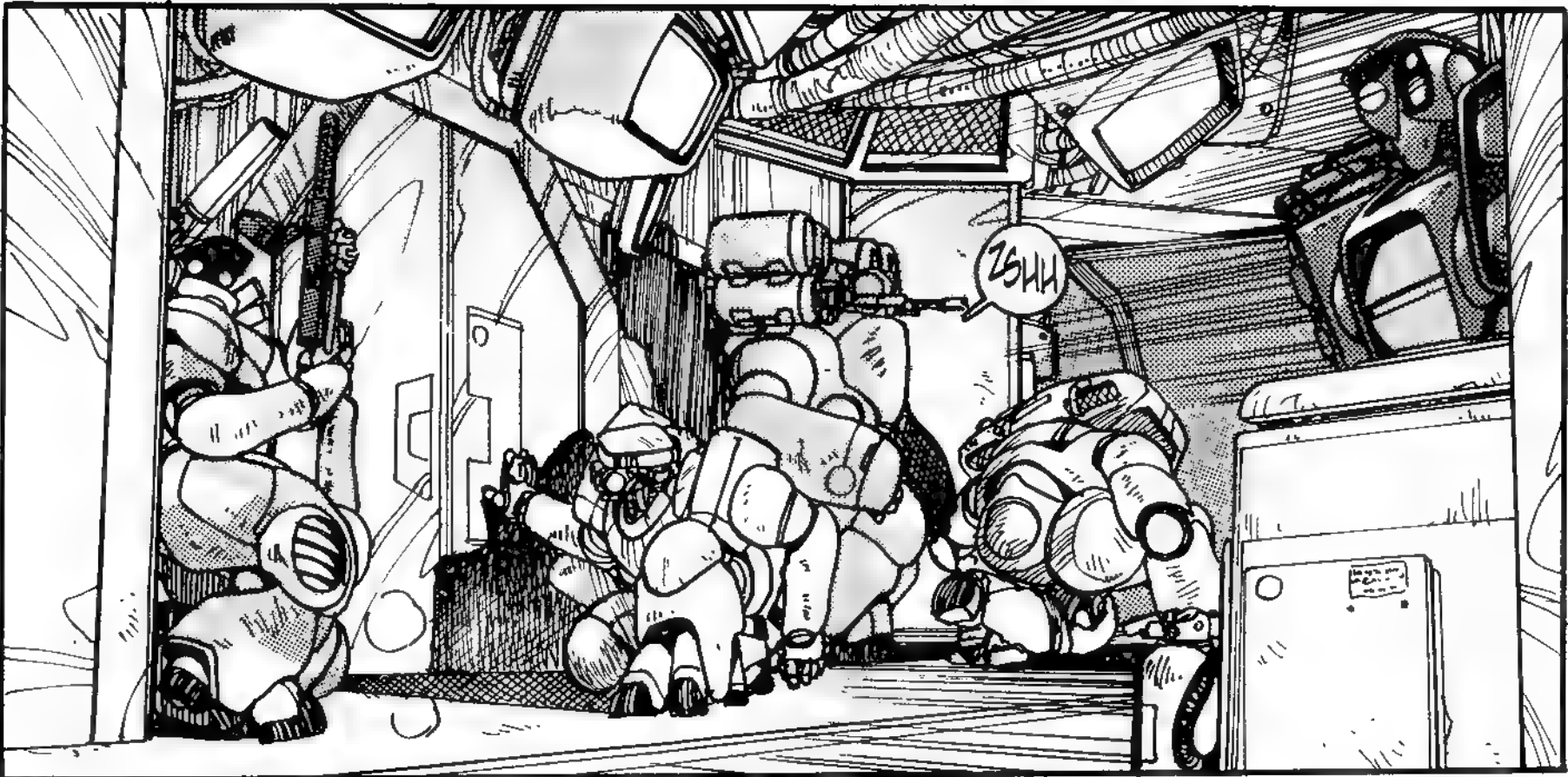




*FX KSSH

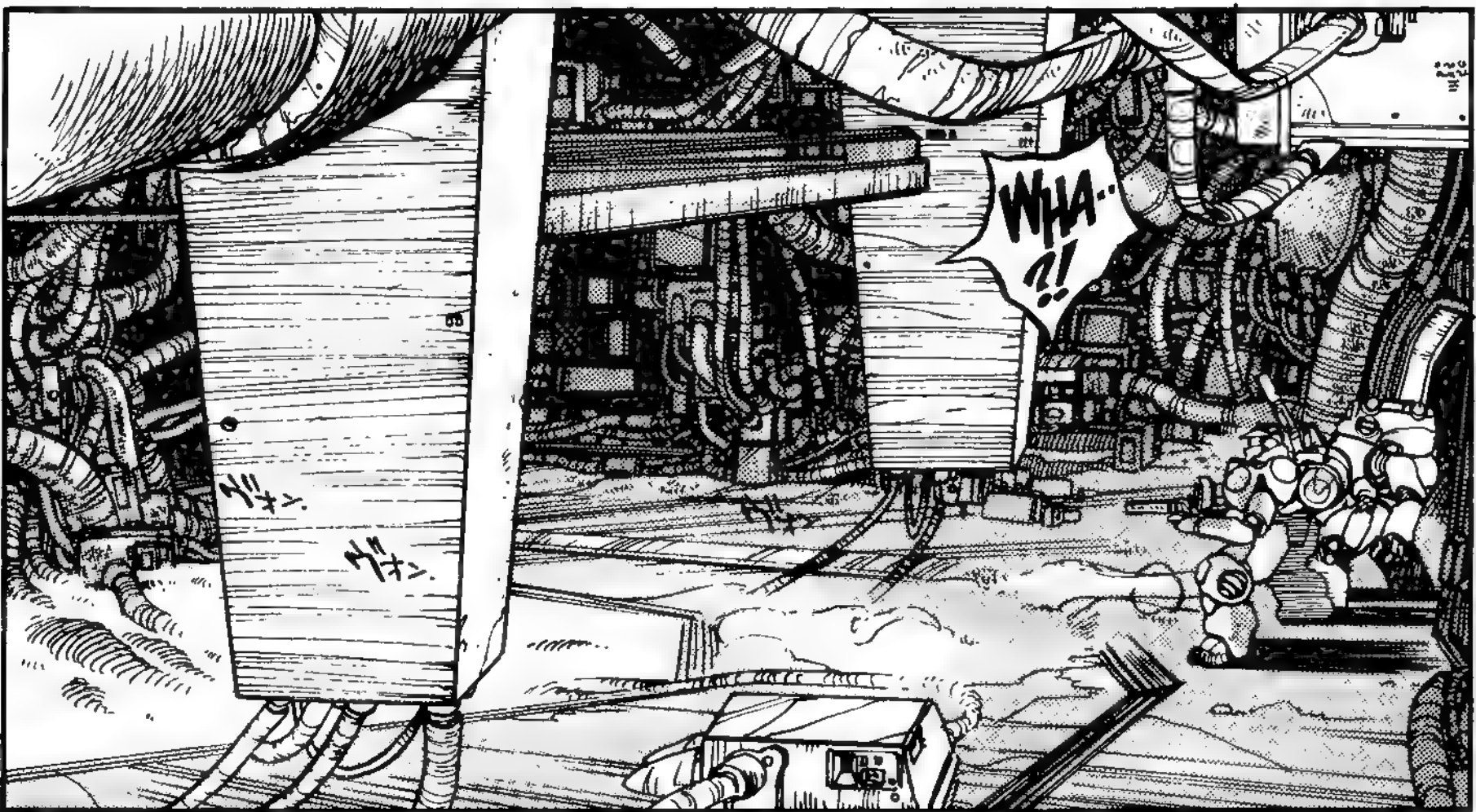
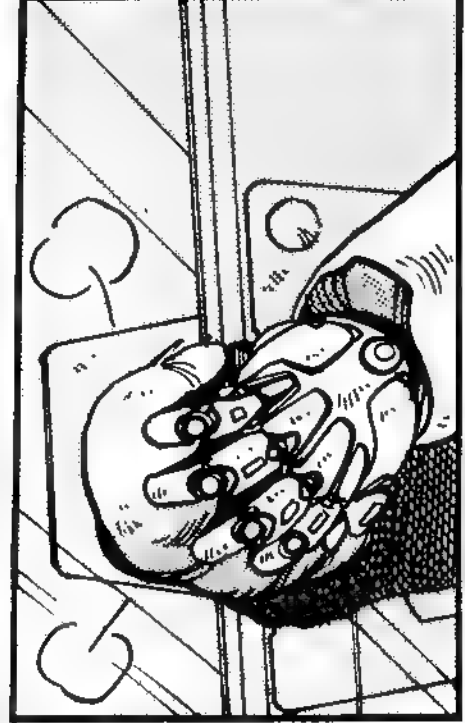
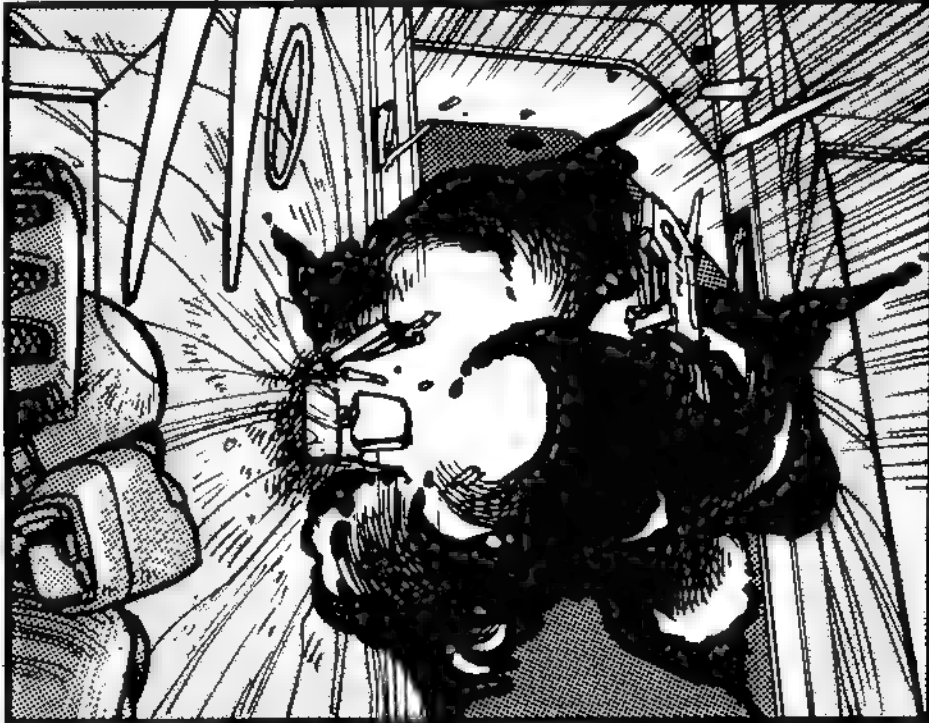
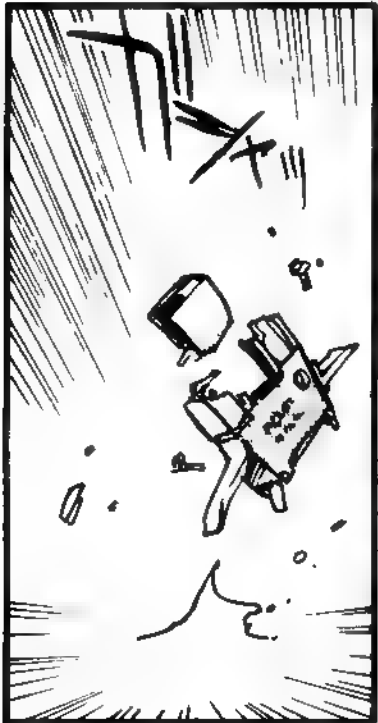
*FX KLAK KLAK



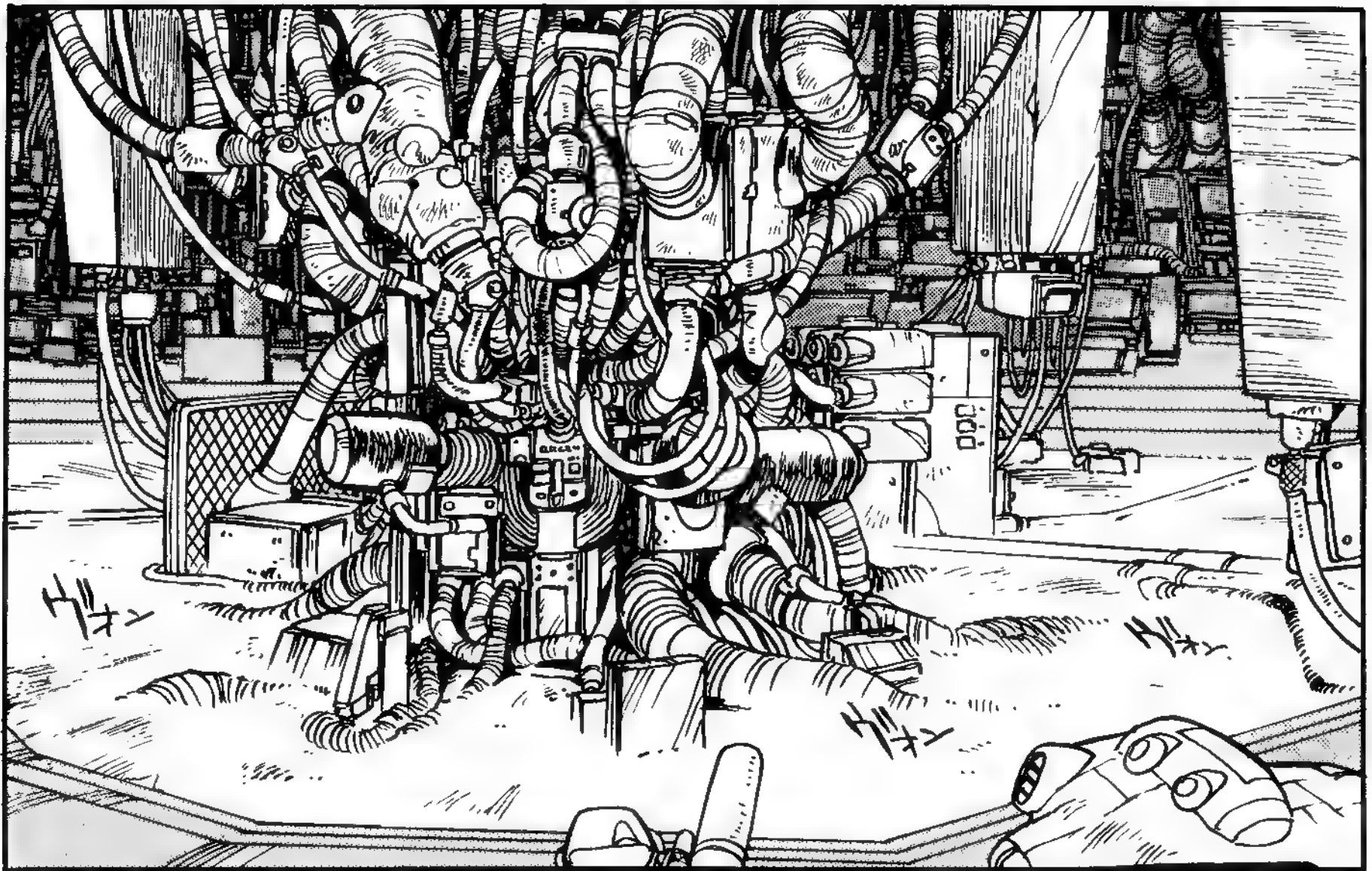


*FX CRASH

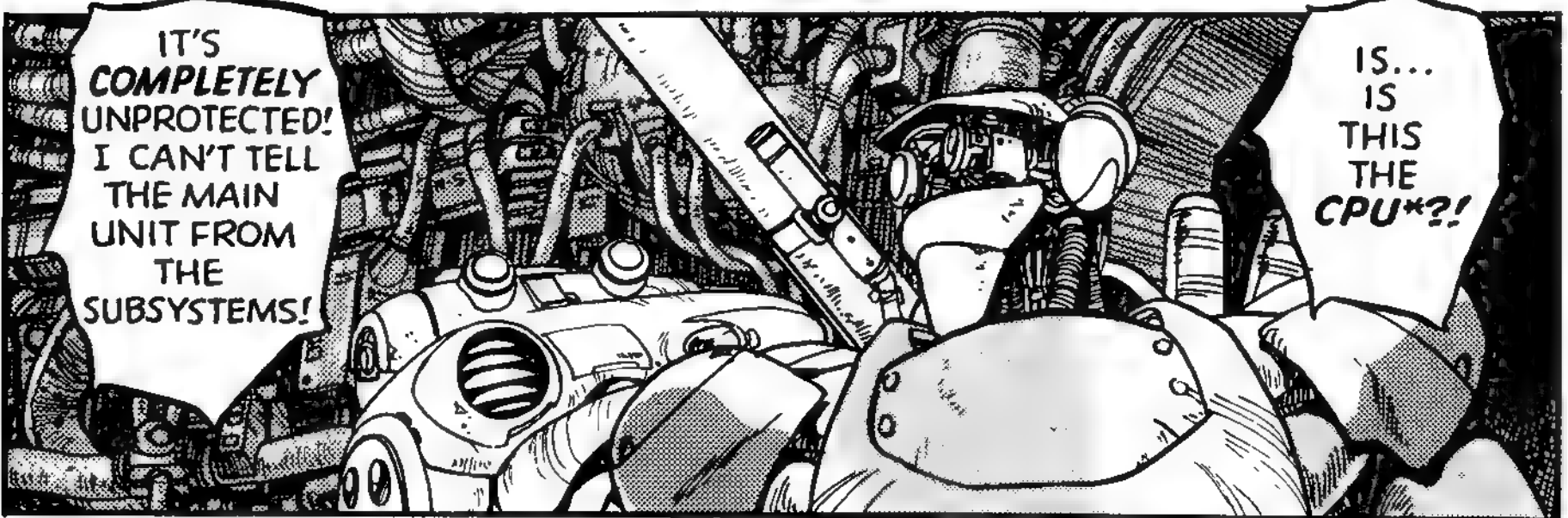
*FX WHMP



*FX MMMM MMMM MMMM



*FX MMMM MMMM MMMM

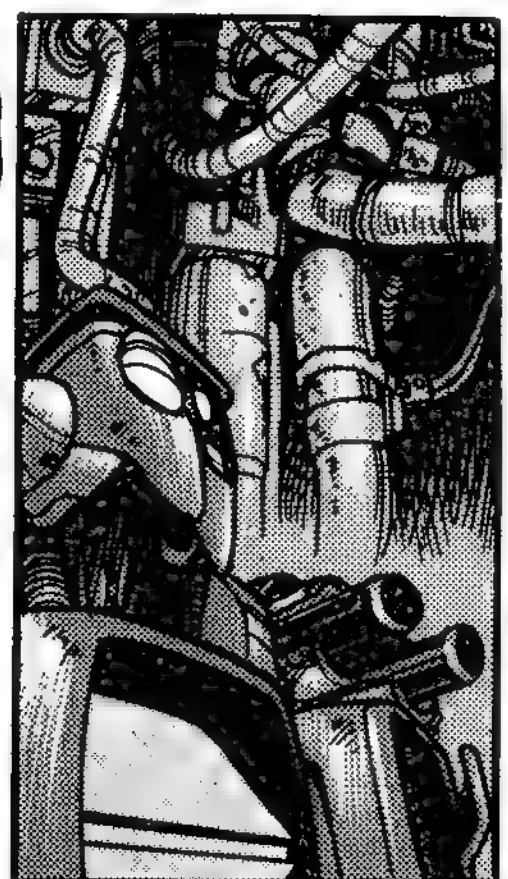
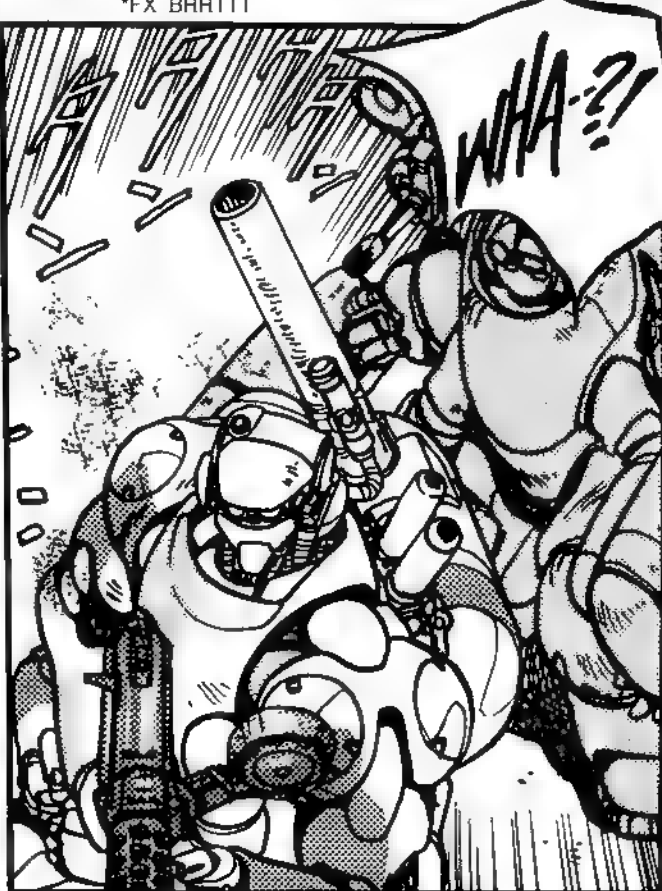
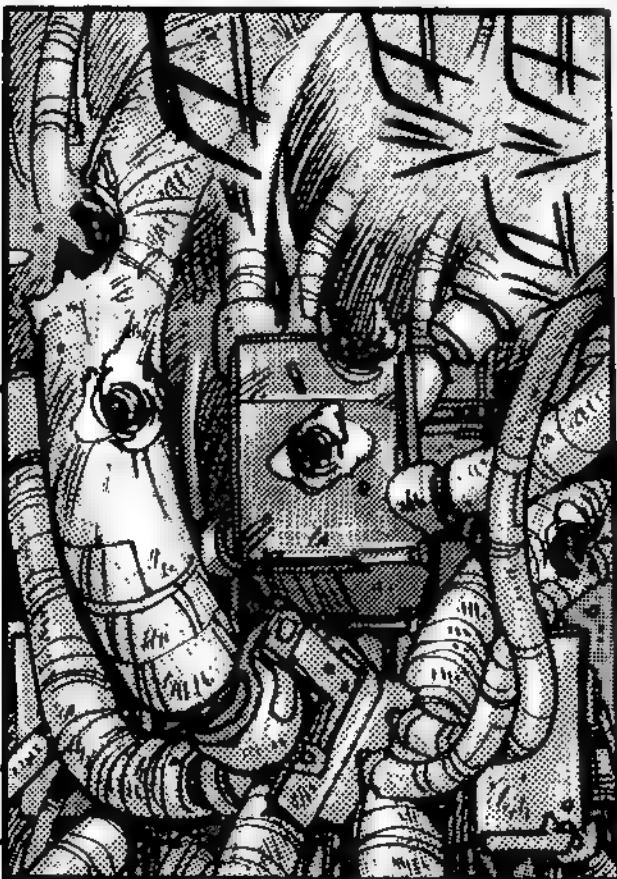


IT'S
COMPLETELY
UNPROTECTED!
I CAN'T TELL
THE MAIN
UNIT FROM
THE
SUBSYSTEMS!

IS...
IS
THIS
THE
CPU*?!

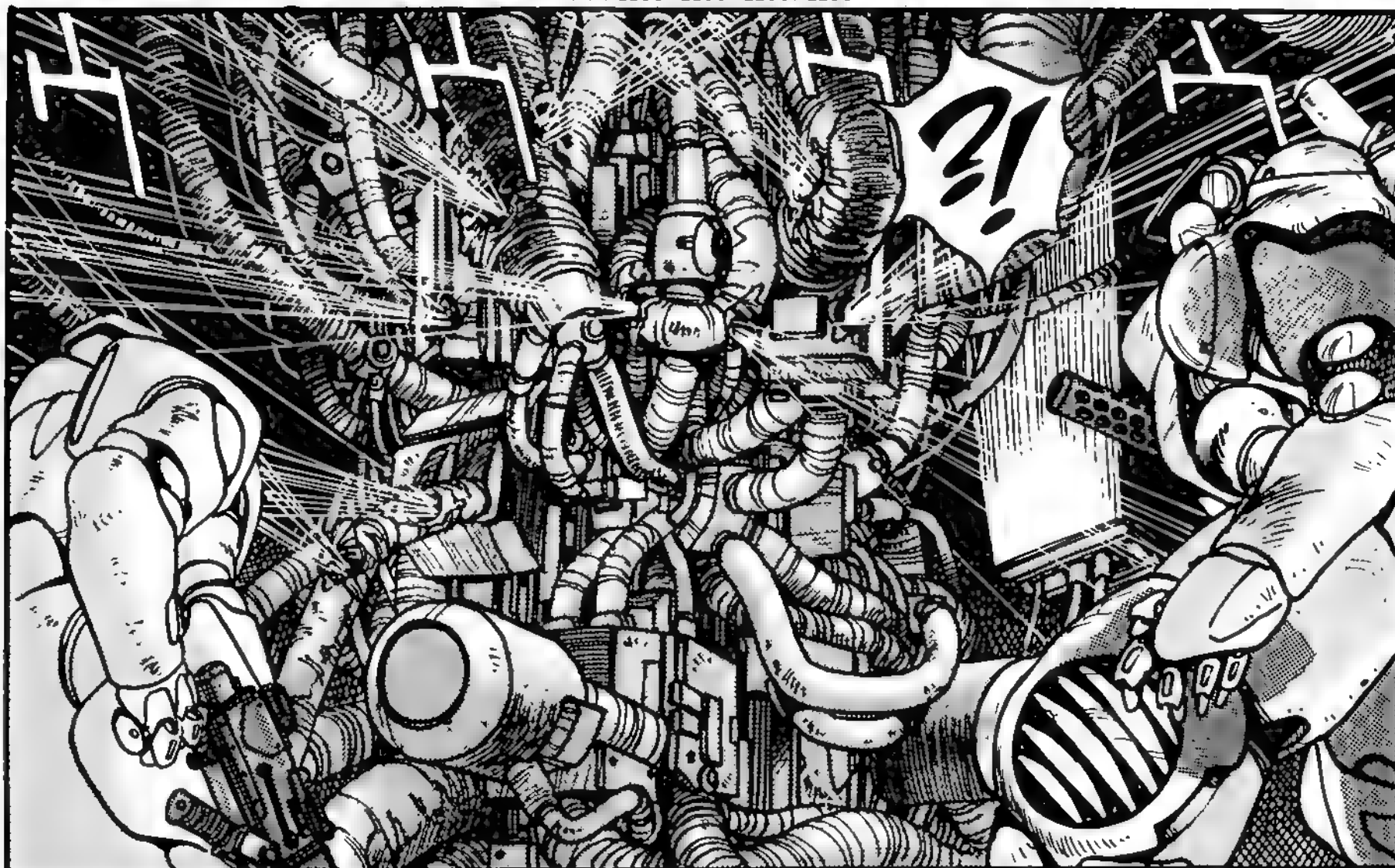
*FX SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK

*FX BRRTT

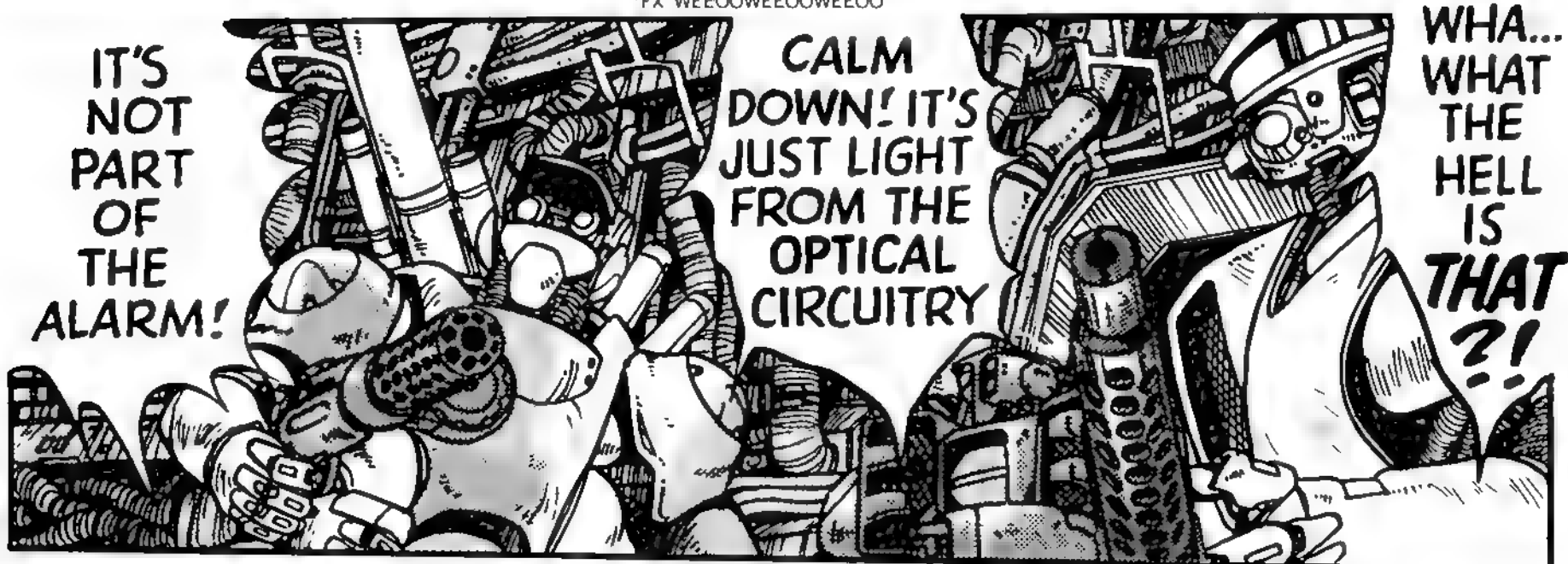


*CPU: Central Processing Unit. The brain of a computer, consisting of main memory, a controller, and a processor.

*FX WEEOWEEOWEEOWEEOW

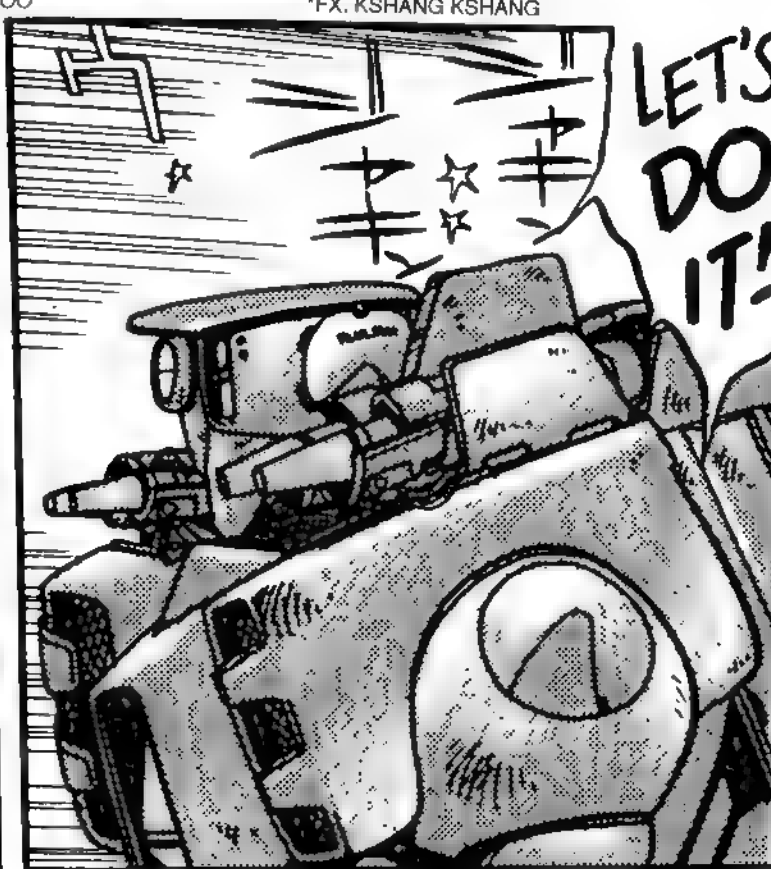
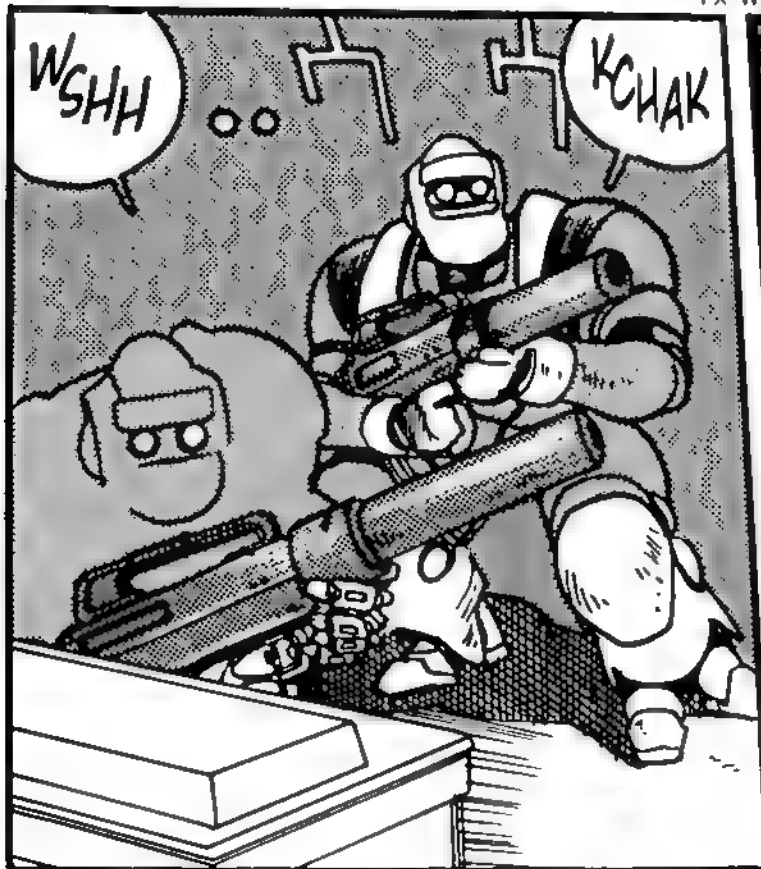


*FX WEEOWEEOWEEOWEEOW



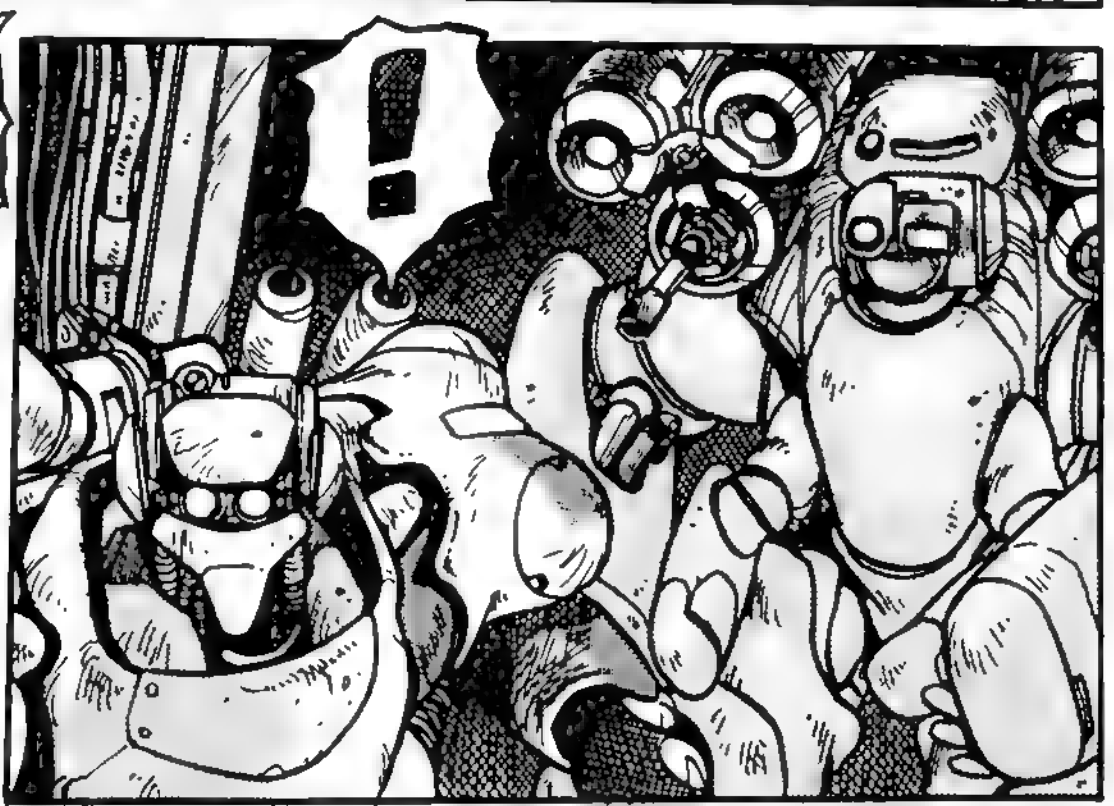
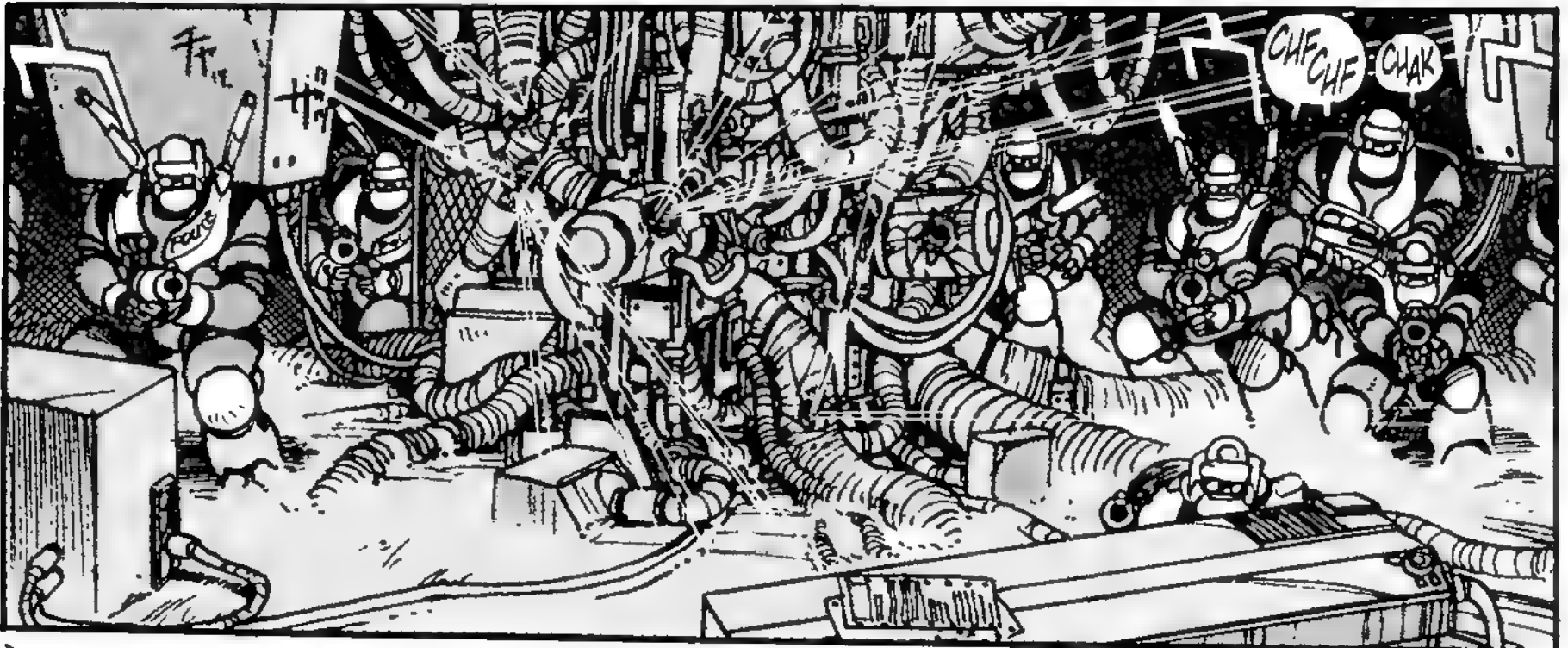
*FX WEEOWEEOWEEOWEEOW

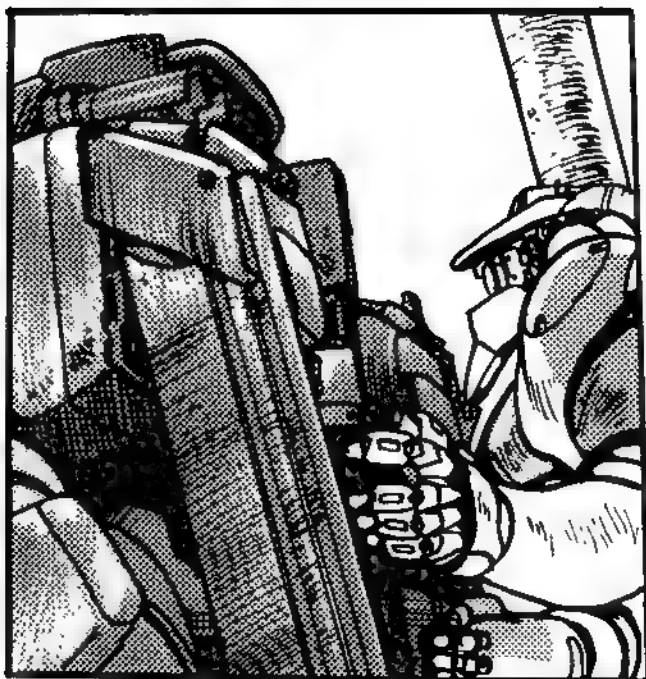
*FX. KSHANG KSHANG



*FX CHAK *FX SHFF

*FX WEEOWEEEOO

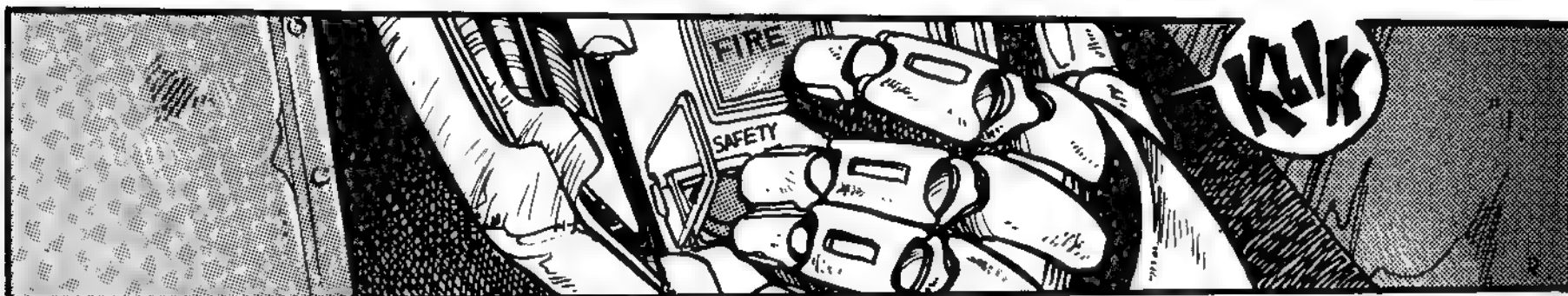




HOW'D
YOU
KNOW
WE...
?!



HEY!



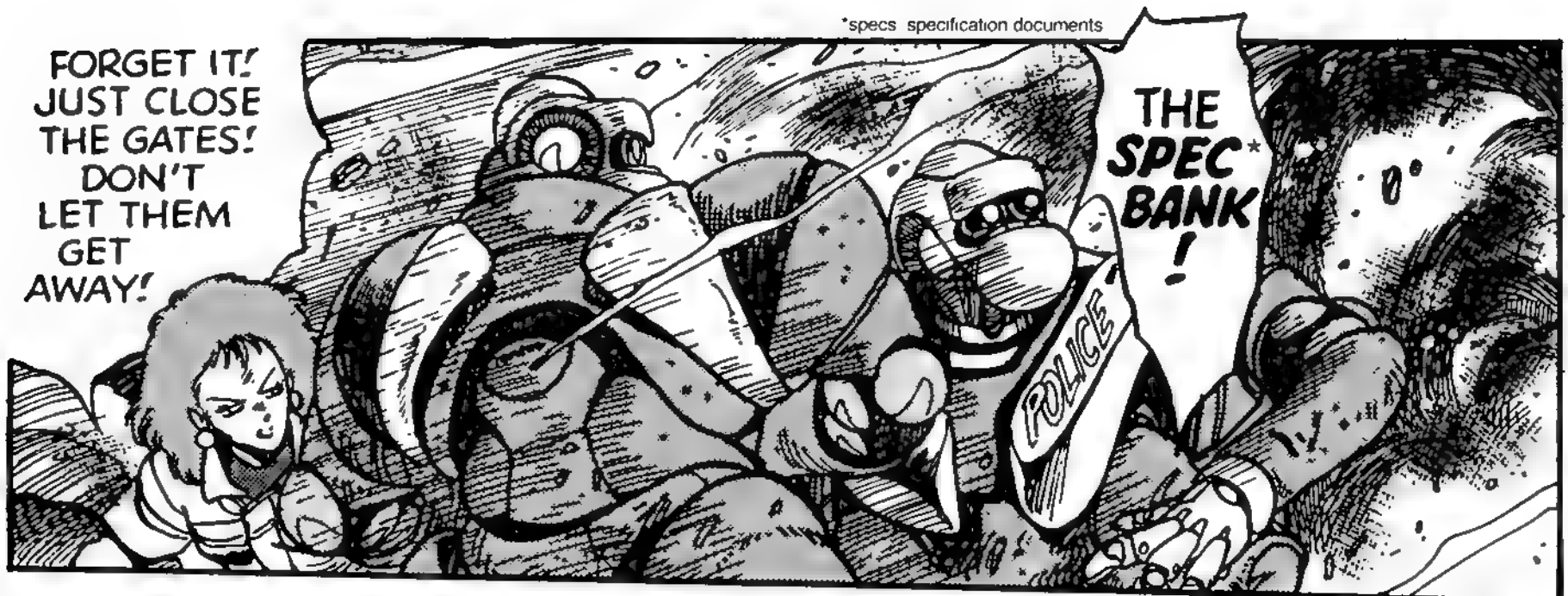
KLIK

*FX BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM



GYAH!

*FX SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM SHOOM

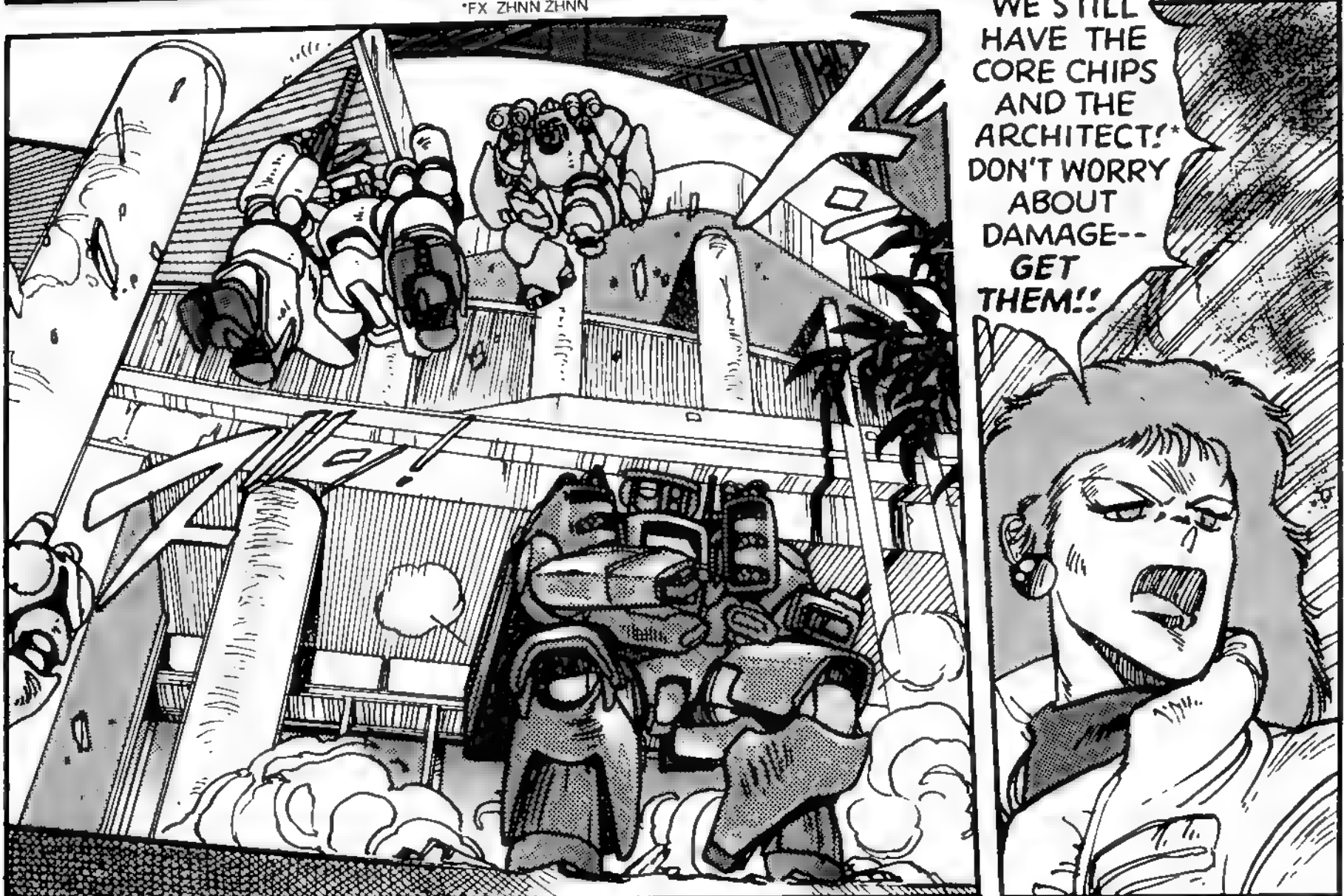


*FX BLAM BLAM

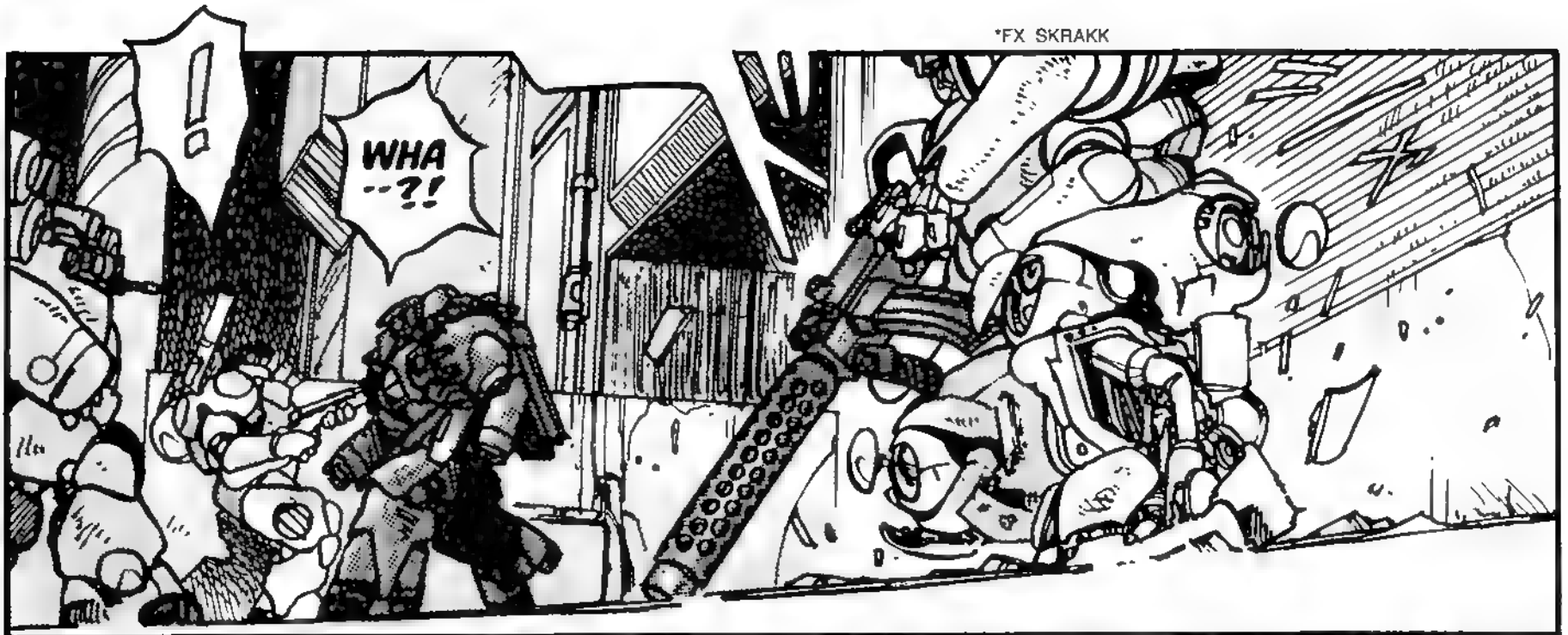
*FX BLAM BLAM BLAM



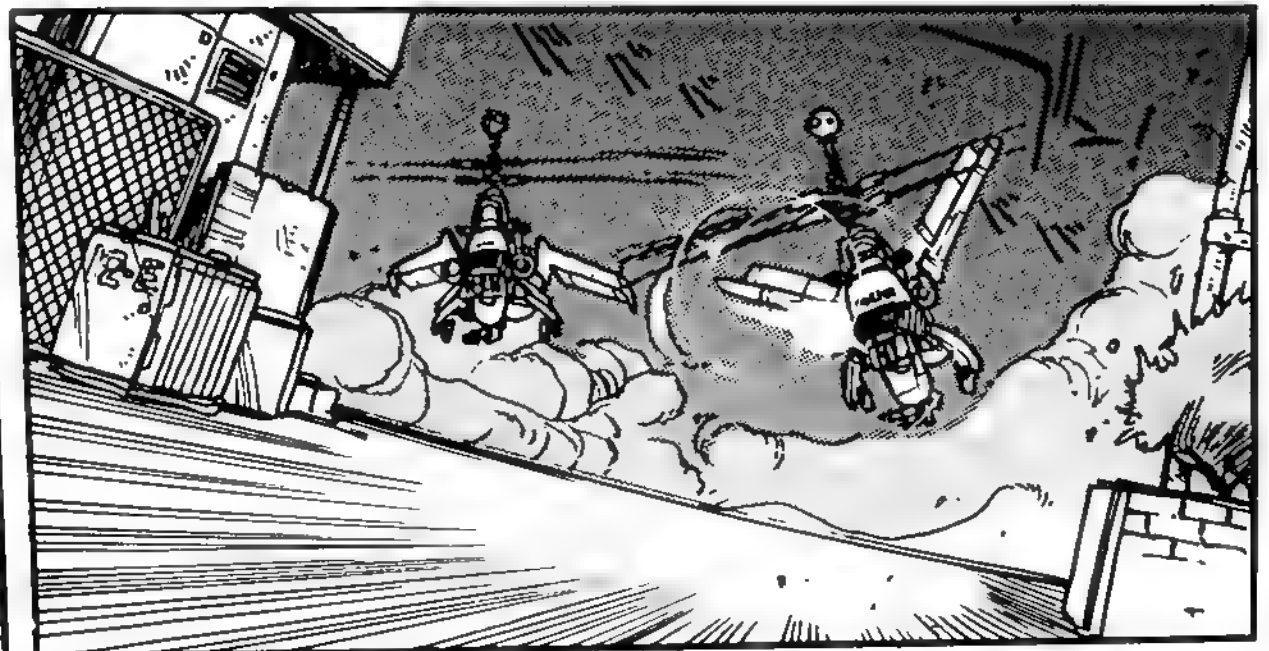
*FX ZHNN ZHNN



*architect systems planning technician, someone who considers machine behavior methodology

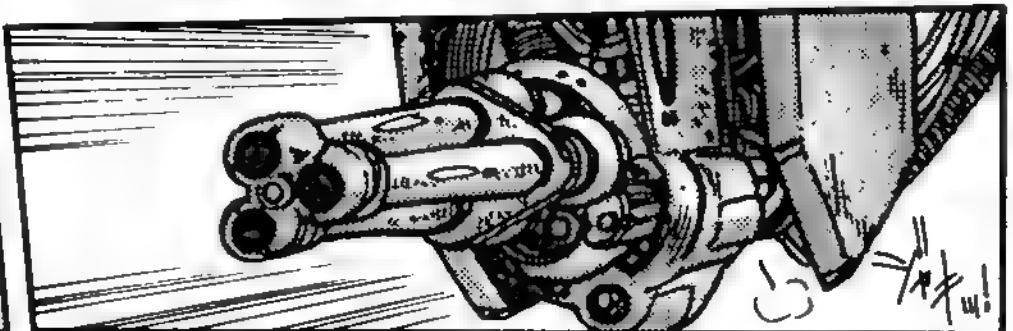


*FX SKRAKK

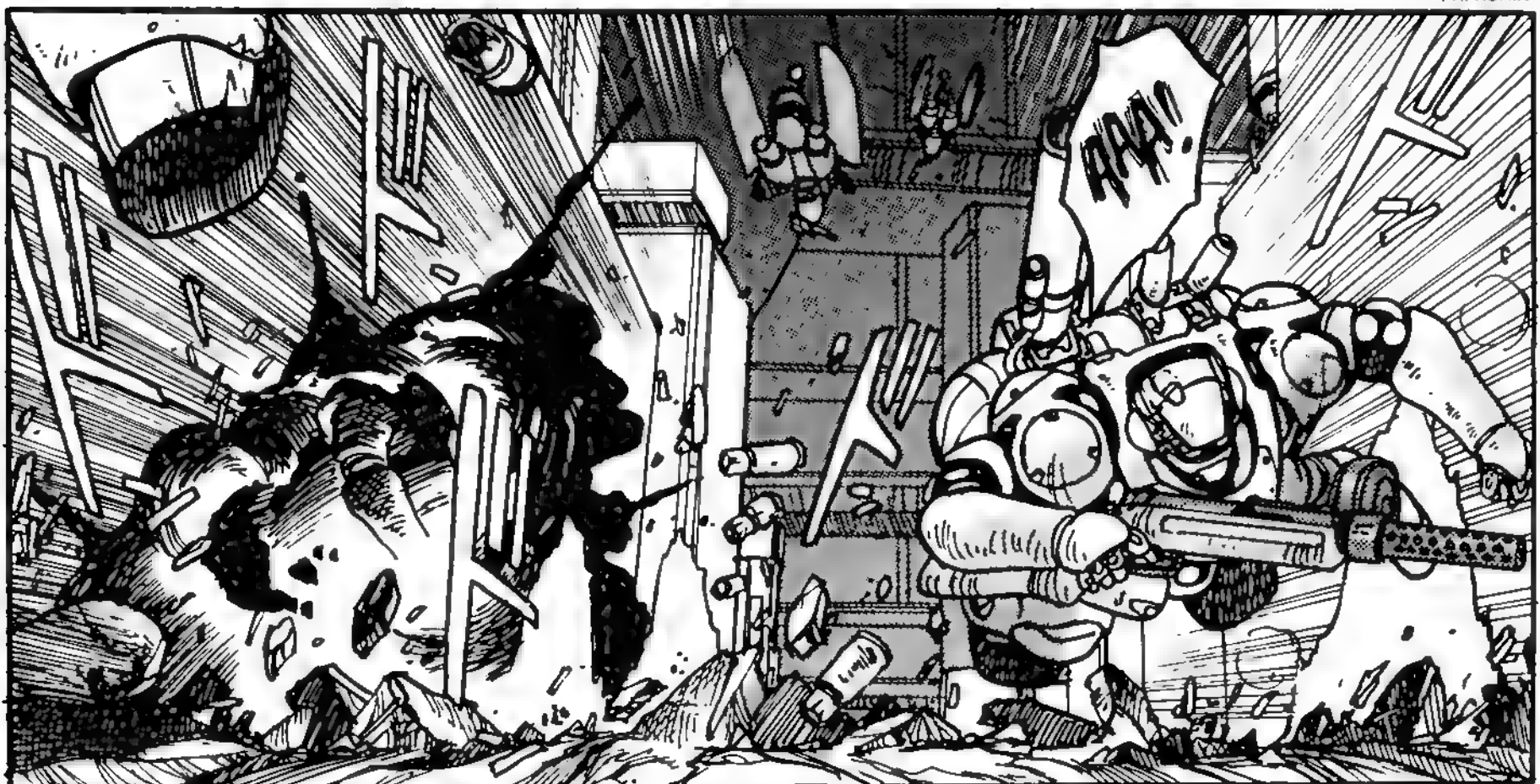


*FX WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

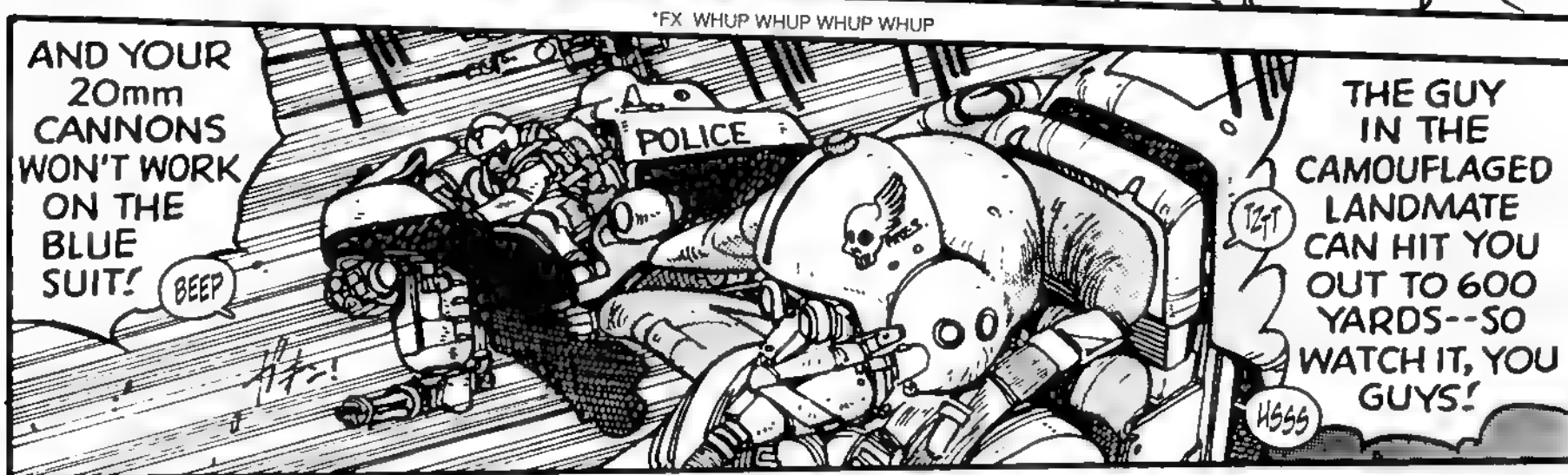
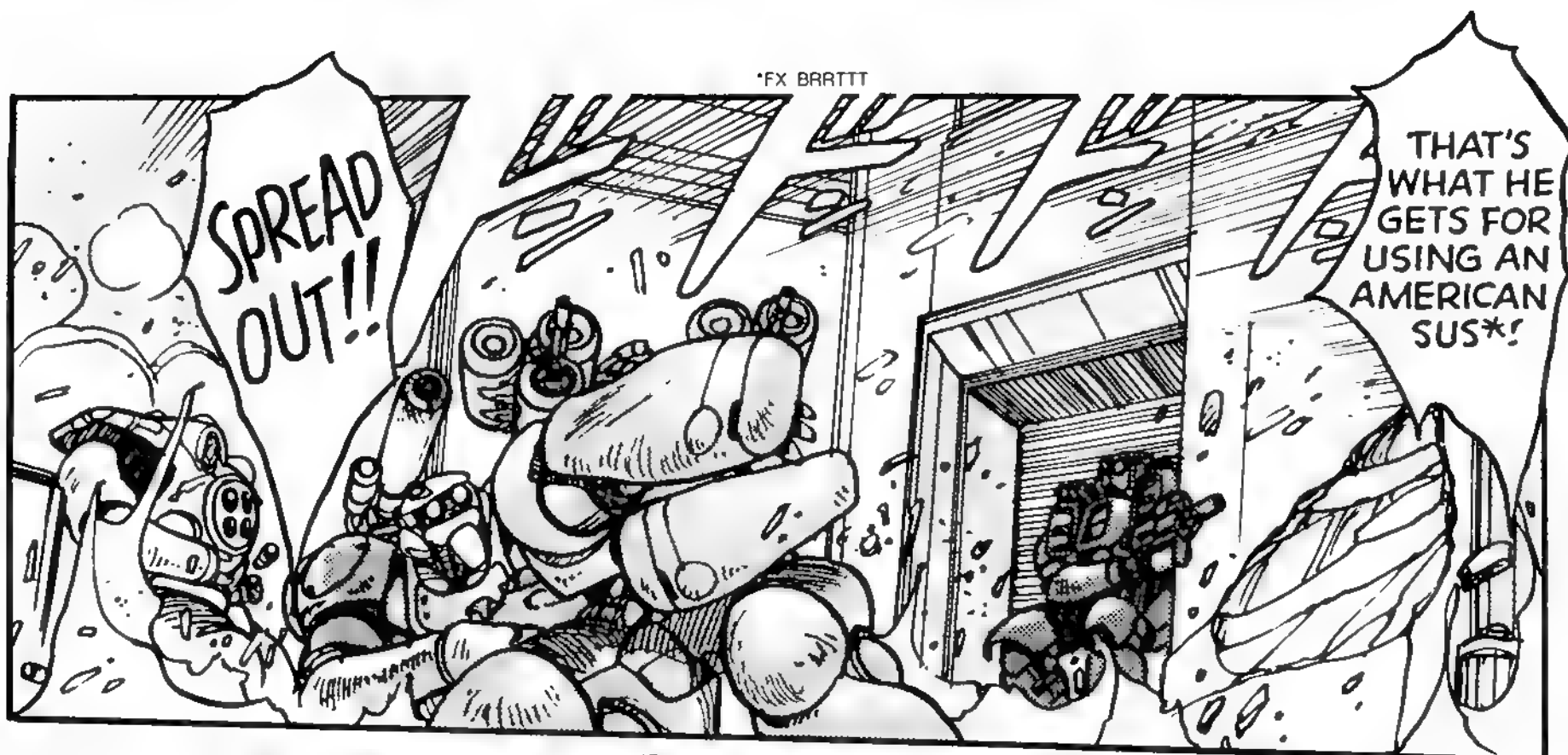
*FX VNNN



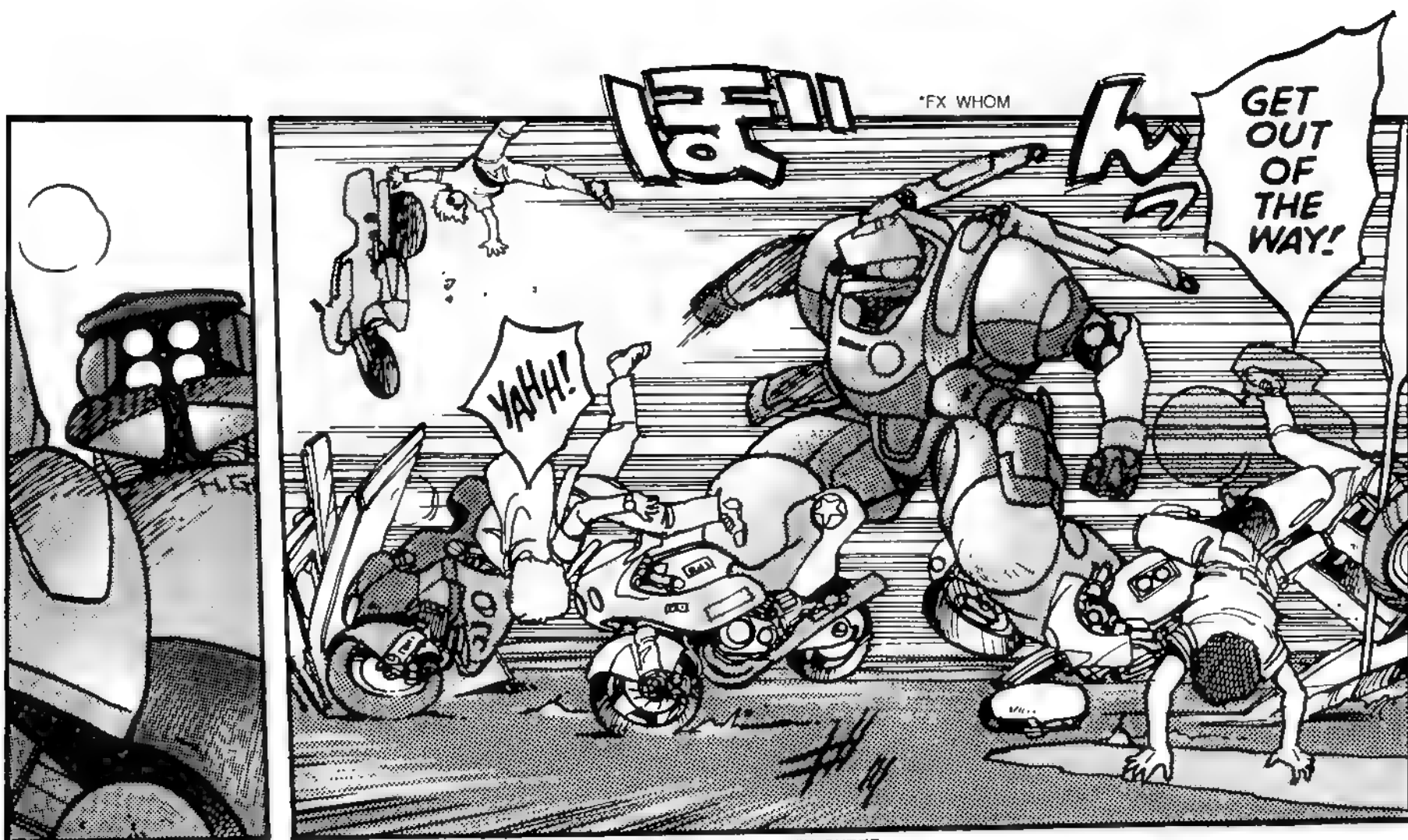
*FX. KCHIK



*FX BRATTT



sus: suspension. Usually, not putting them on humanoid mech legs is more natural and stable

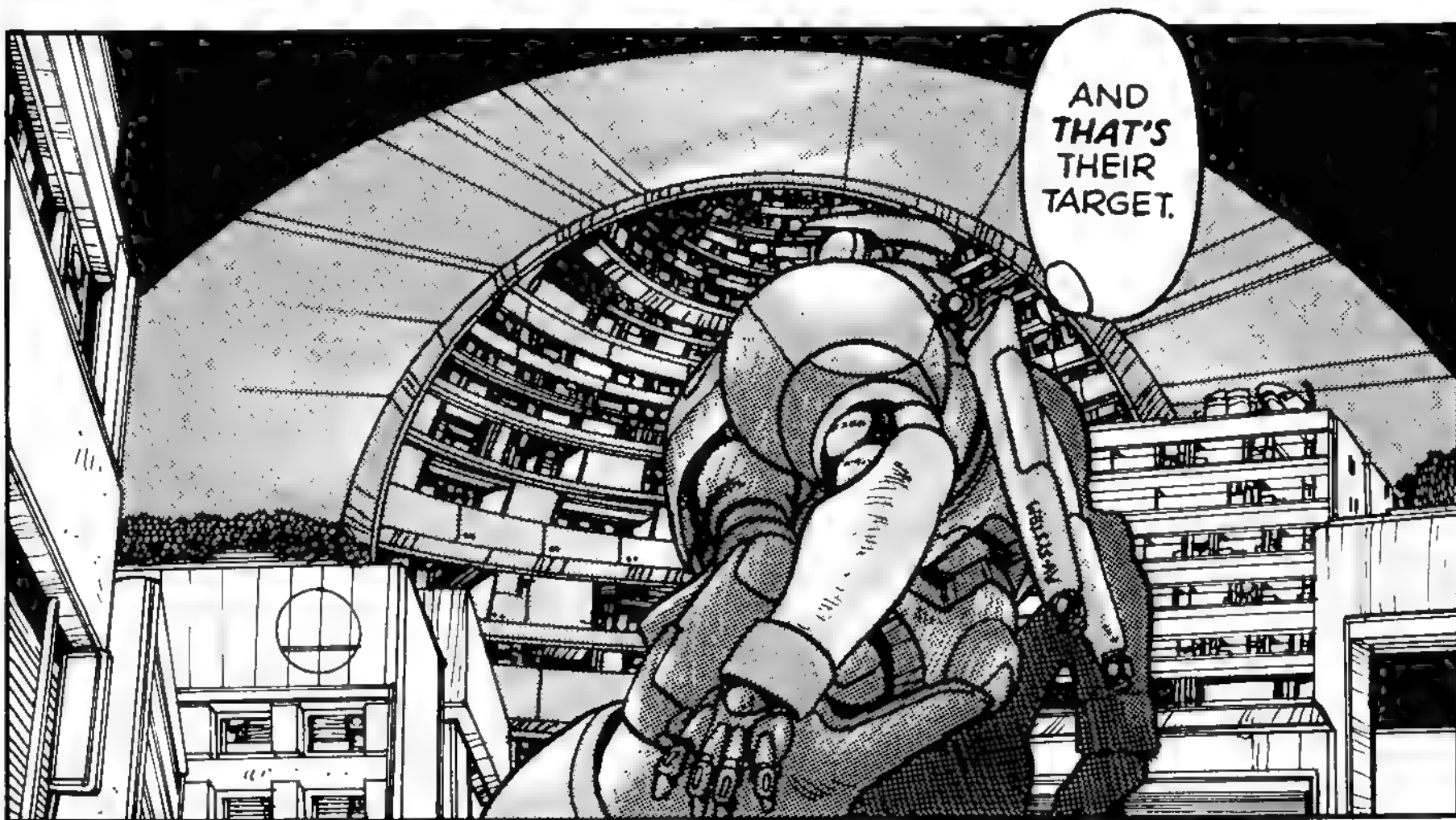
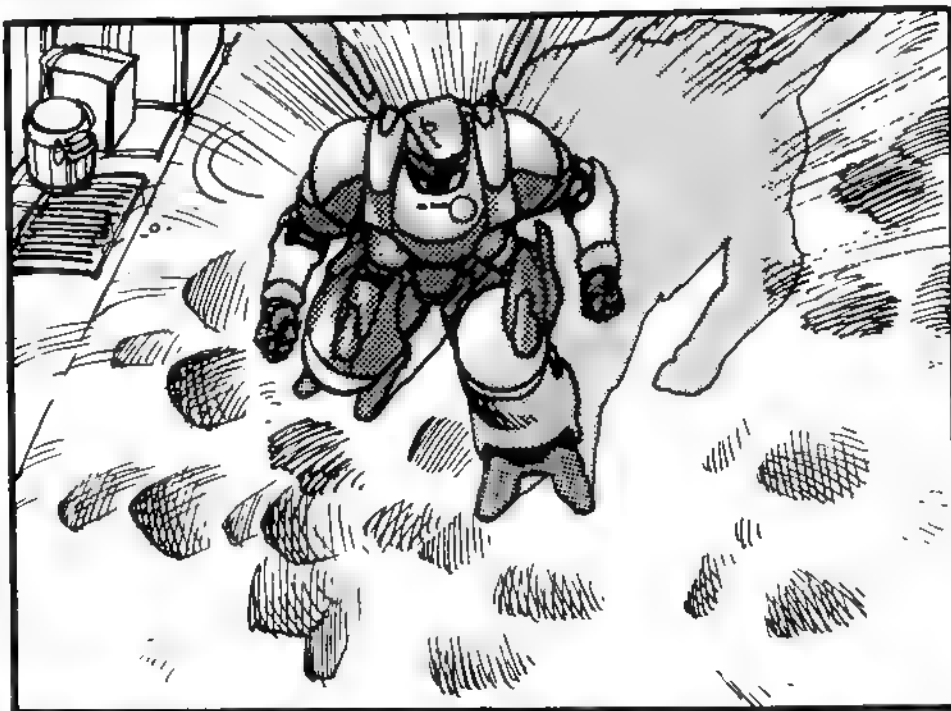
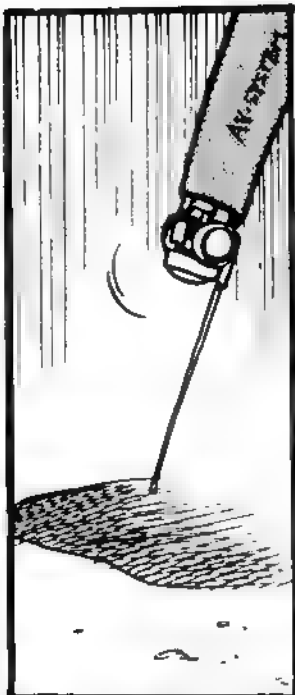


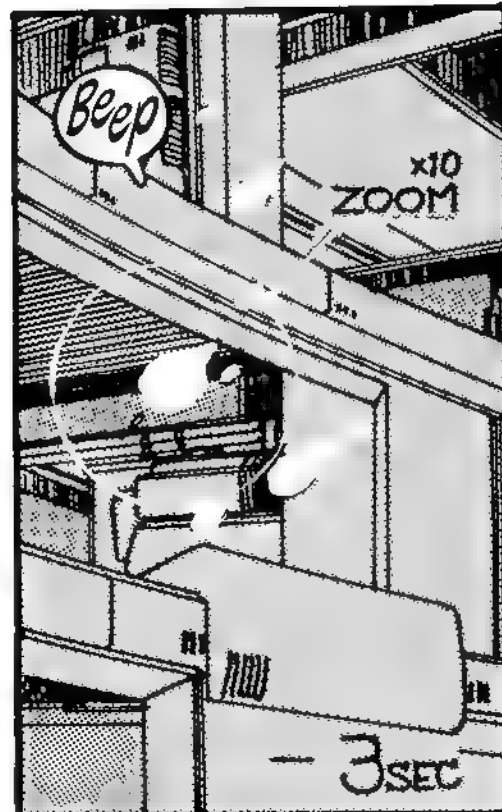
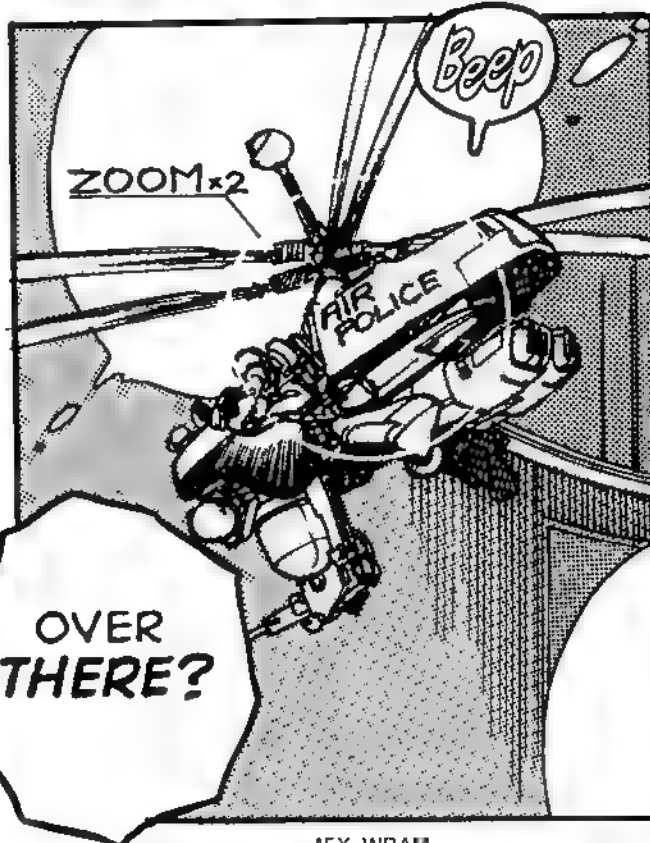
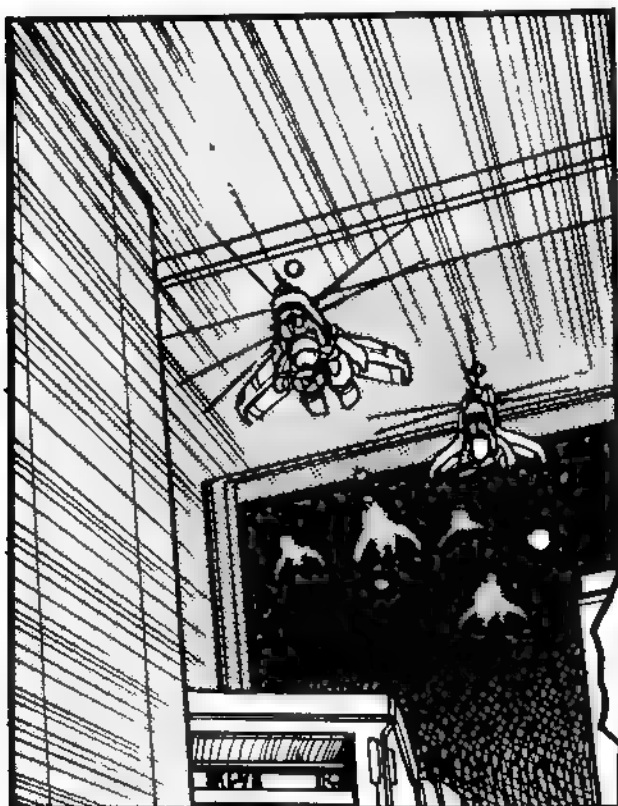
*FX SKREE



THEY
JUST
WENT
STRAIGHT
IN...?

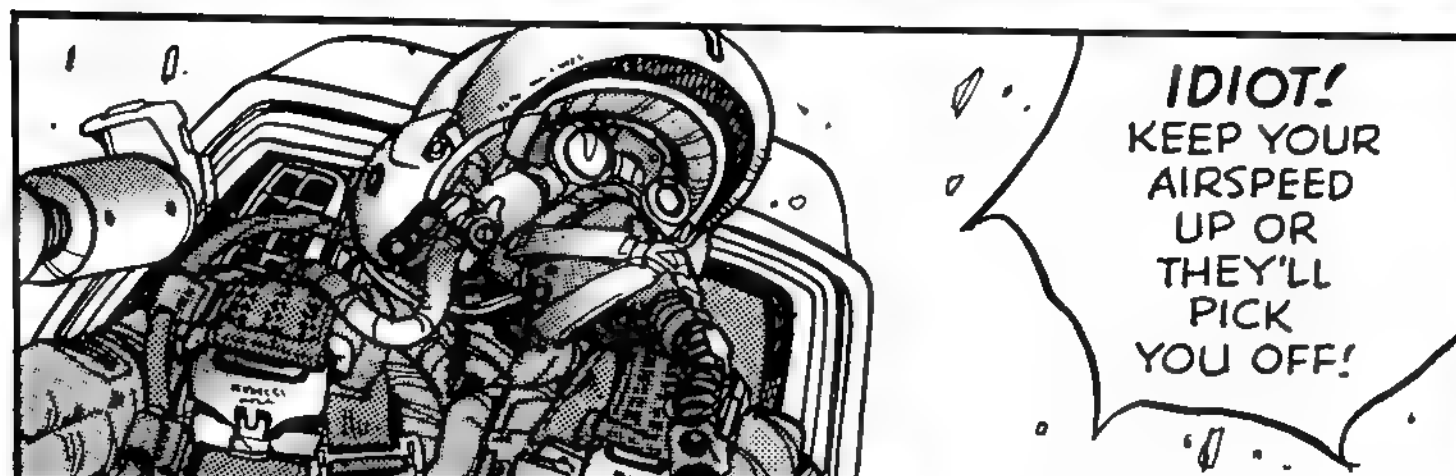
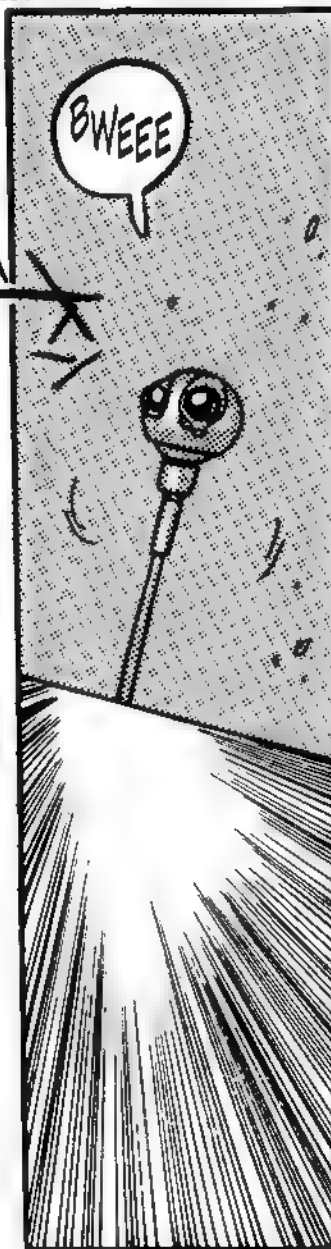
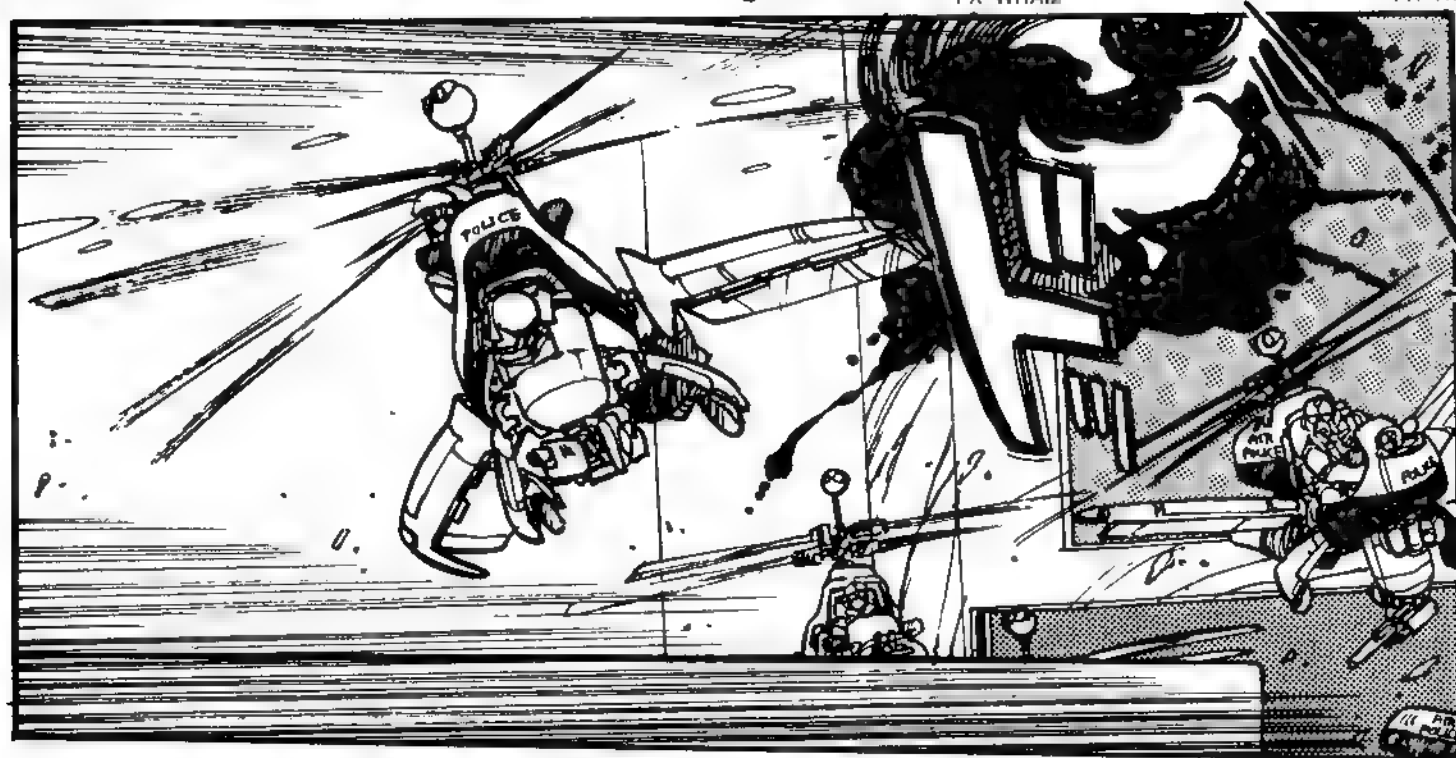
STILL
WARM...
THESE GUYS
AREN'T
TRAINED.

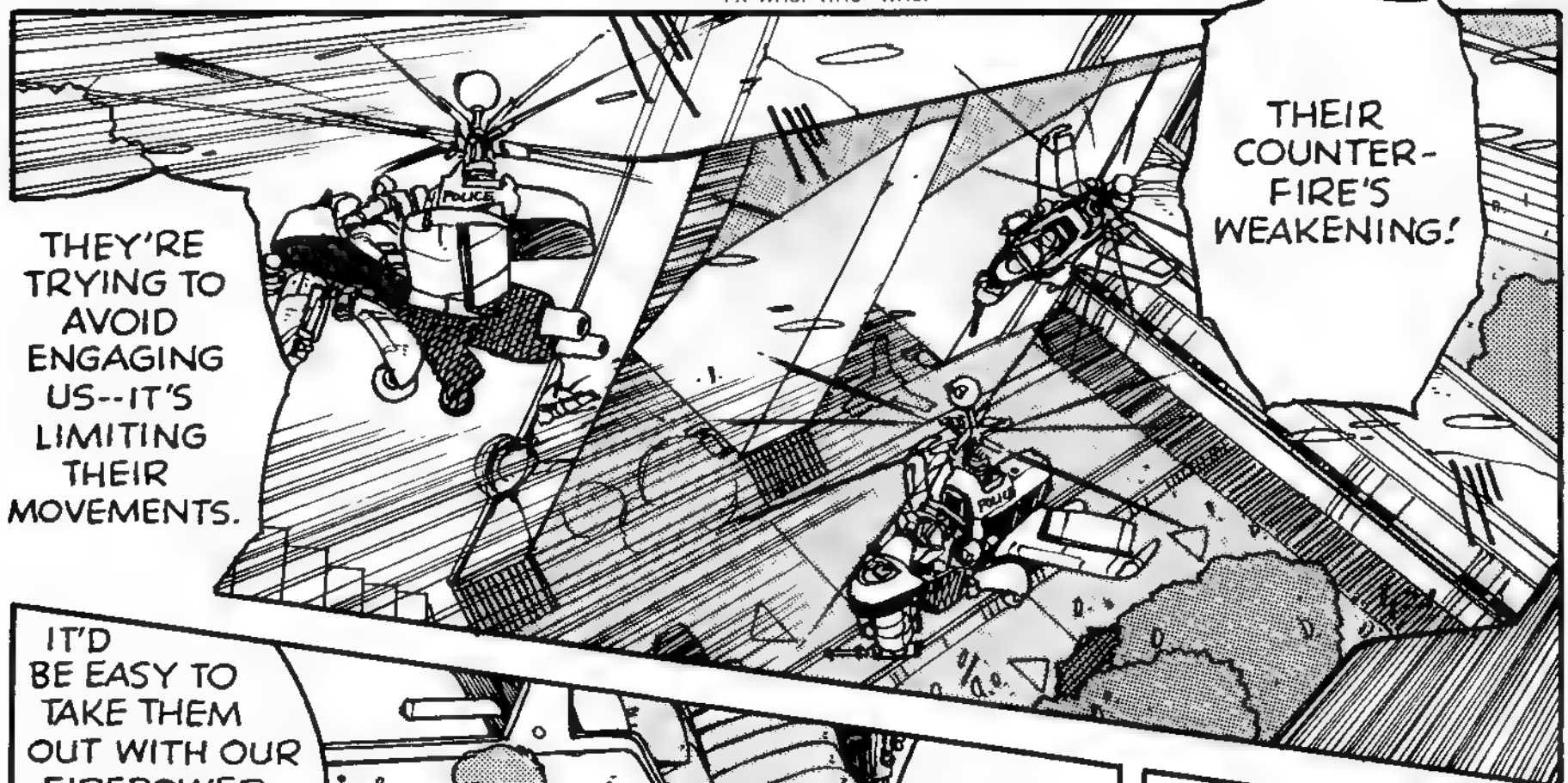




*FX WRAM

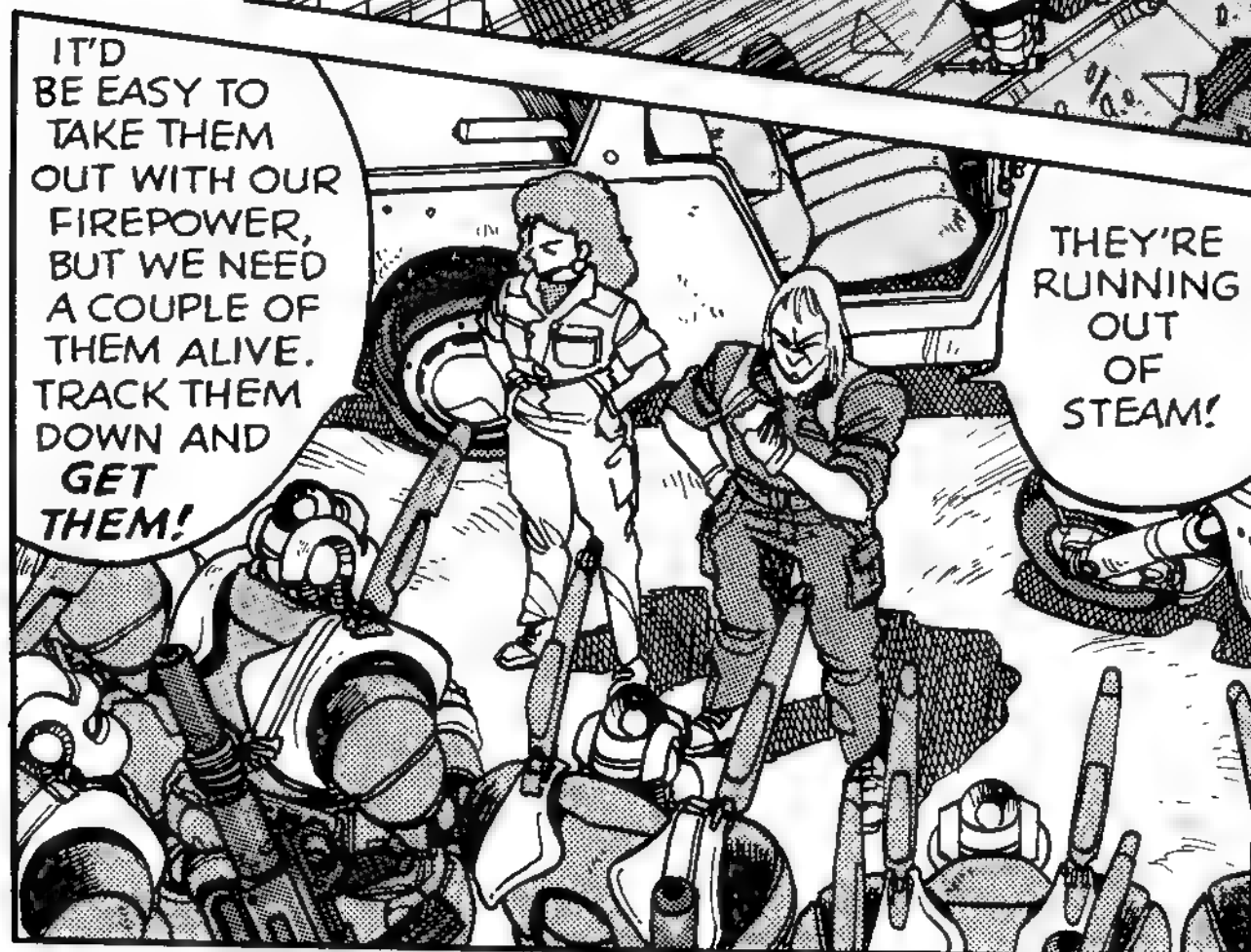
*FX WHEE





THEY'RE TRYING TO AVOID ENGAGING US--IT'S LIMITING THEIR MOVEMENTS.

THEIR COUNTER-FIRE'S WEAKENING!

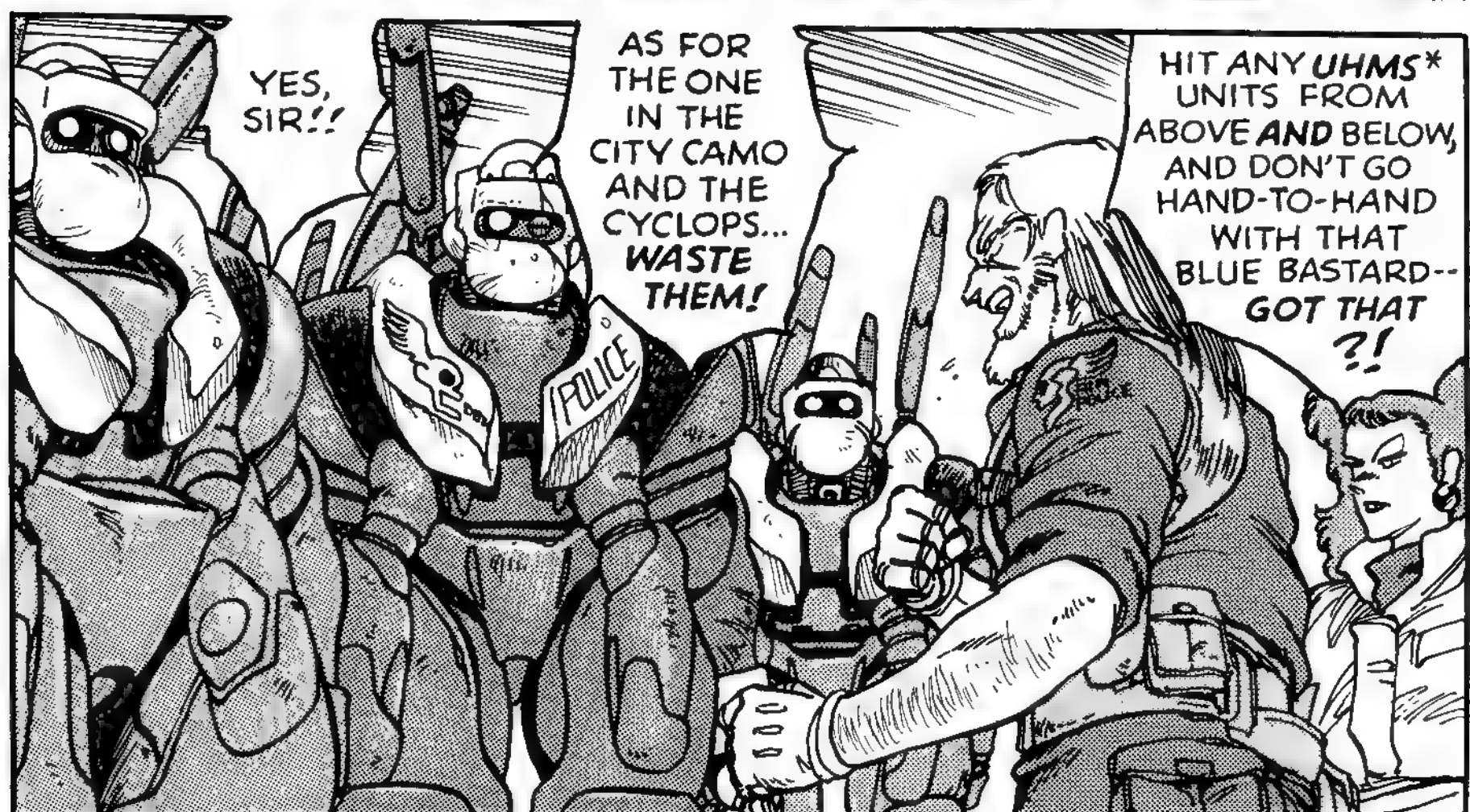


IT'D BE EASY TO TAKE THEM OUT WITH OUR FIREPOWER, BUT WE NEED A COUPLE OF THEM ALIVE. TRACK THEM DOWN AND **GET THEM!**

THEY'RE RUNNING OUT OF STEAM!



GOOD. KEEP UP THE PRESSURE.

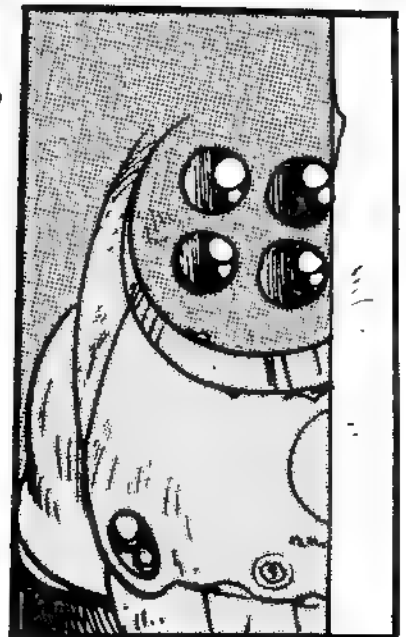
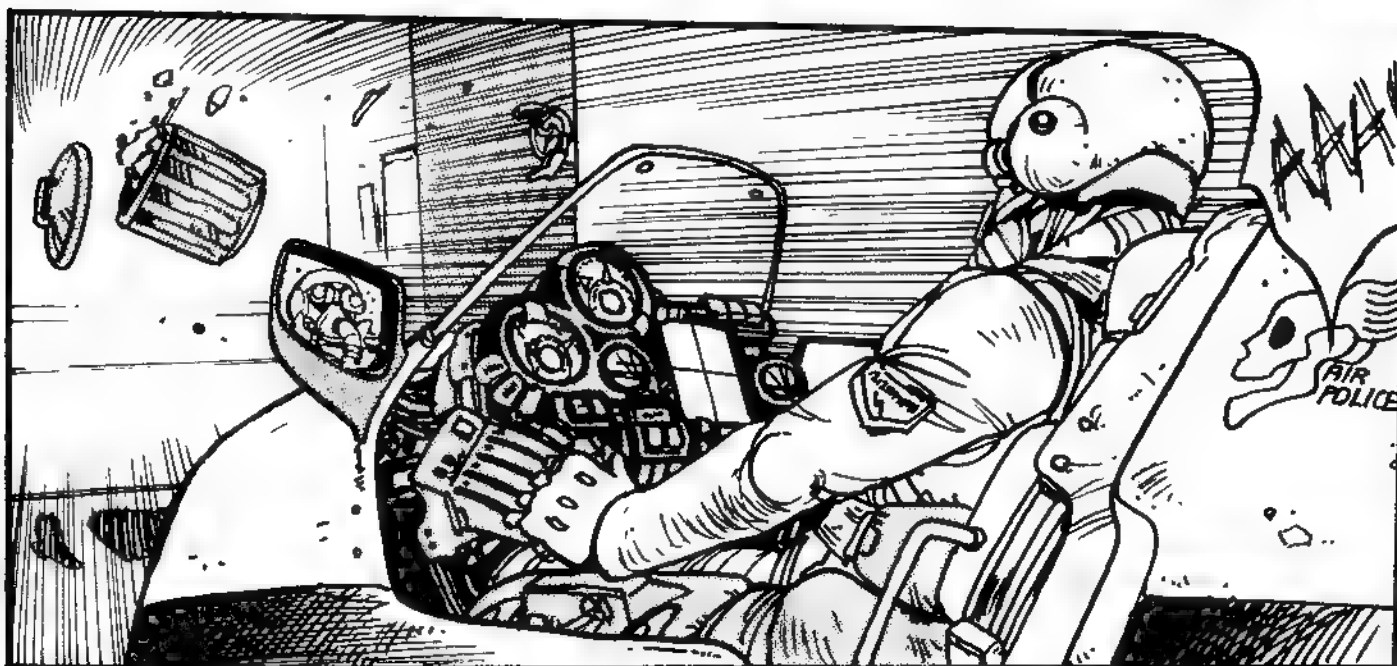
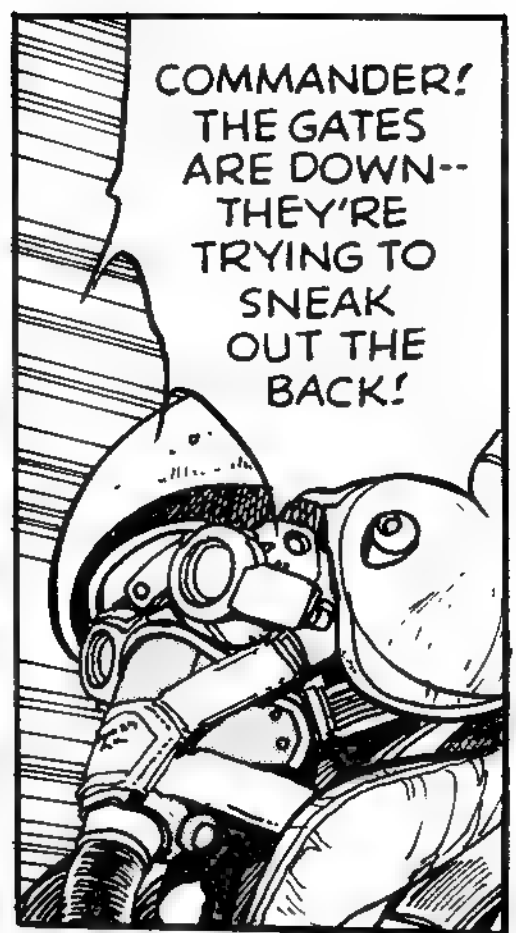
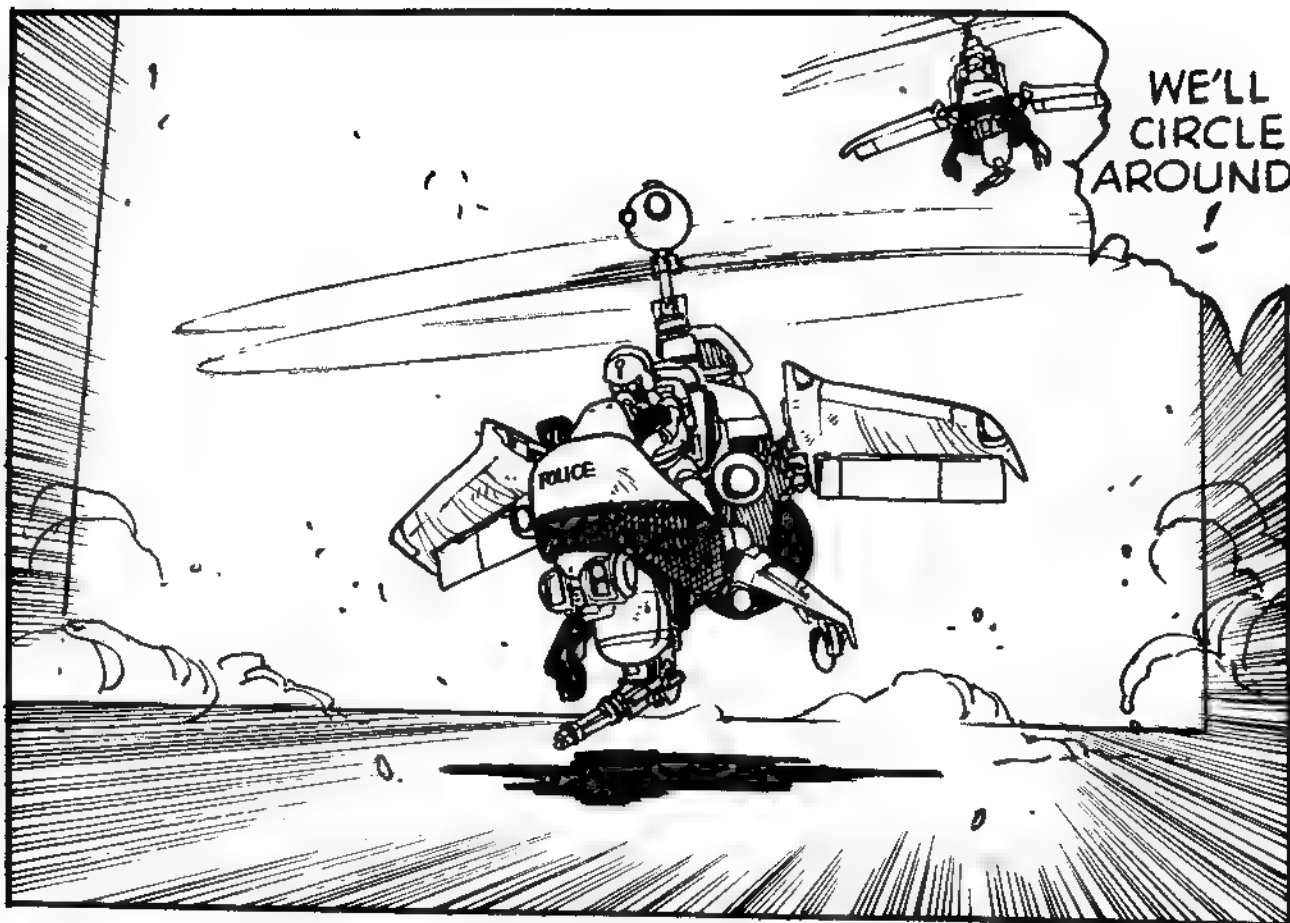


YES, SIR!!

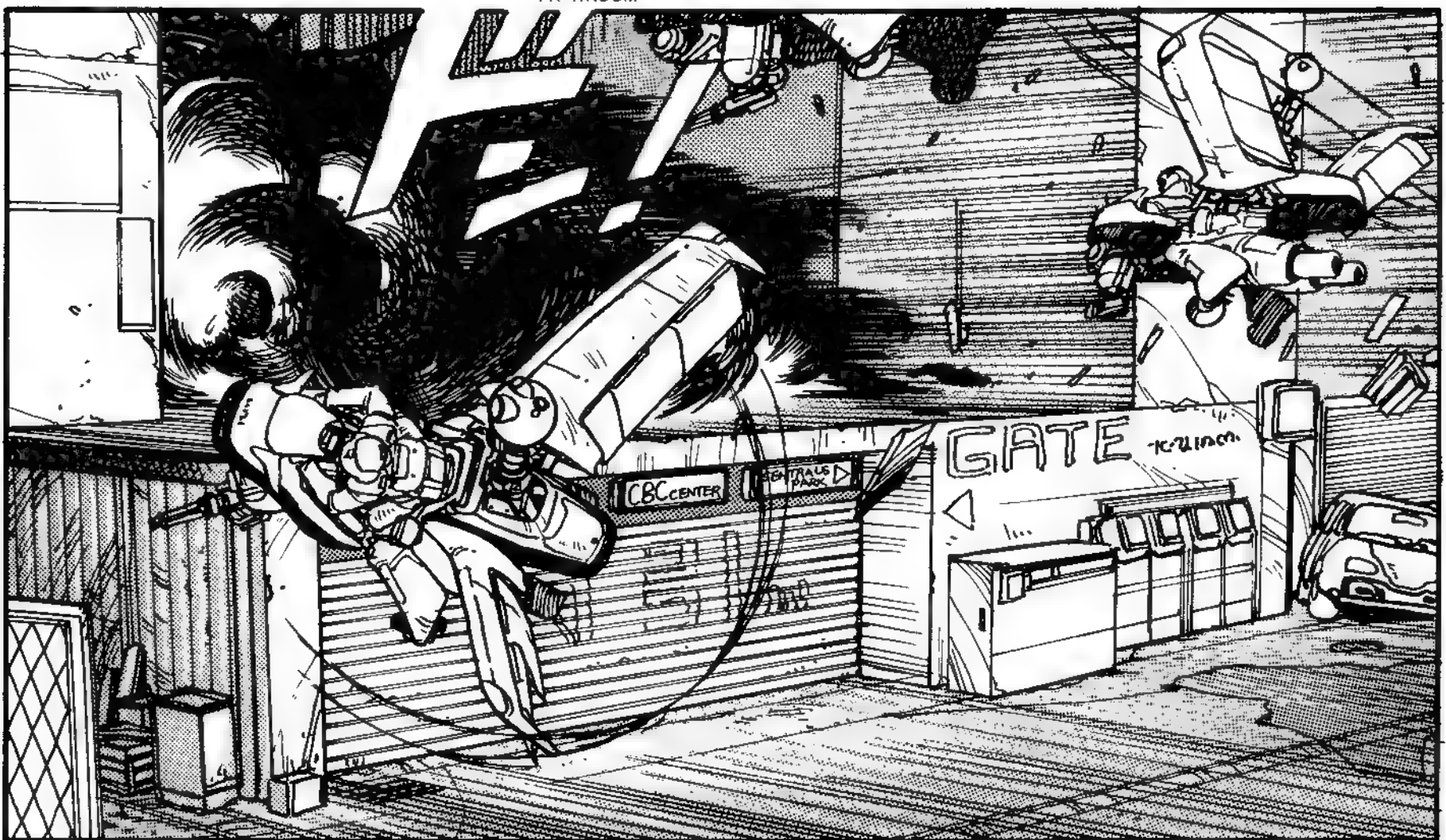
AS FOR THE ONE IN THE CITY CAMO AND THE CYCLOPS... **WASTE THEM!**

HIT ANY **UHMS*** UNITS FROM ABOVE AND BELOW, AND DON'T GO HAND-TO-HAND WITH THAT BLUE BASTARD--**GOT THAT ?!**

*UHMS: Under-Head Mount Sensors—a Landmate with its sensor pack mounted under the head



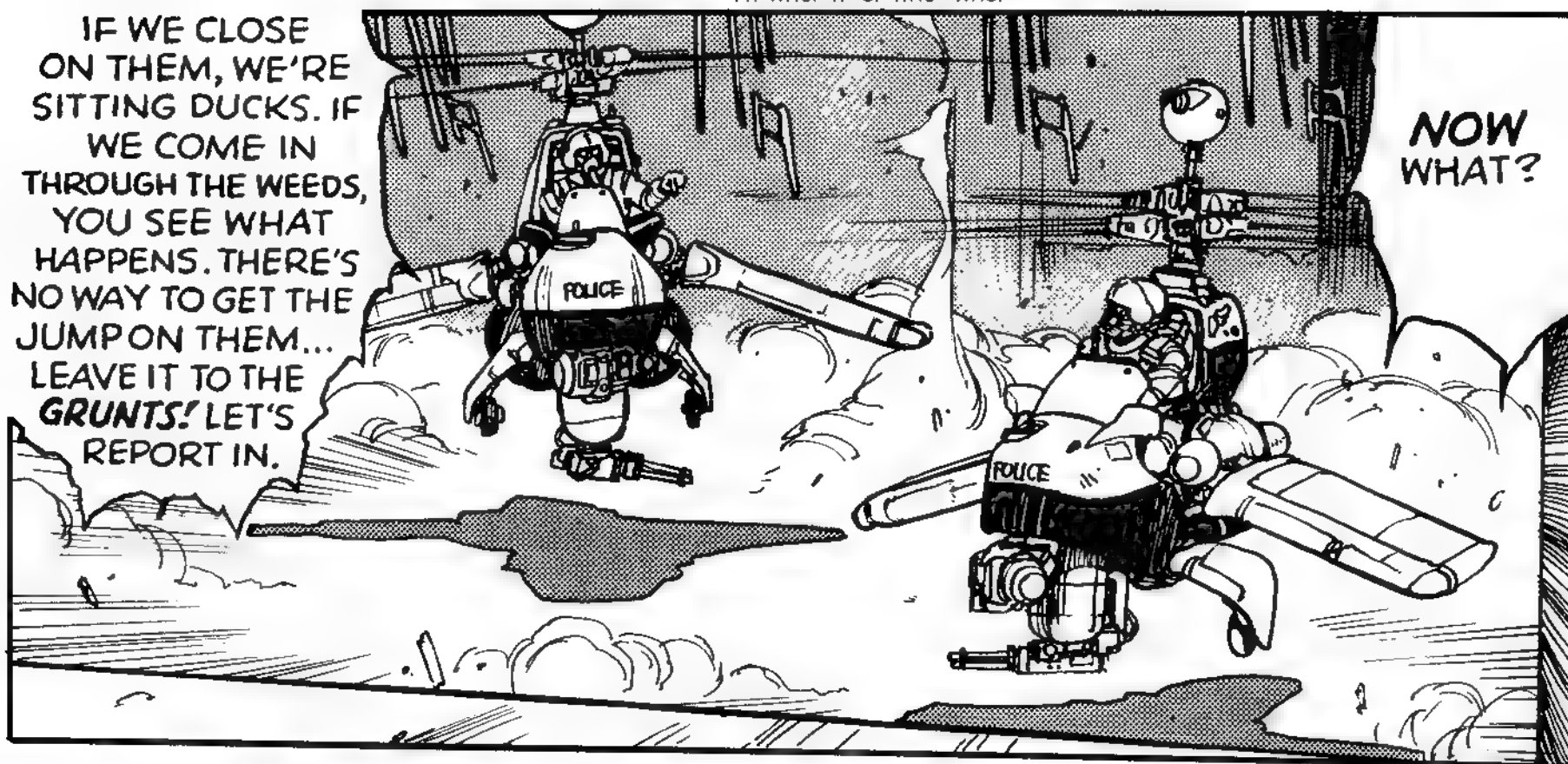
*FX WKOOM



*FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP

IF WE CLOSE
ON THEM, WE'RE
SITTING DUCKS. IF
WE COME IN
THROUGH THE WEEDS,
YOU SEE WHAT
HAPPENS. THERE'S
NO WAY TO GET THE
JUMP ON THEM...
LEAVE IT TO THE
GRUNTS! LET'S
REPORT IN.

**NOW
WHAT?**

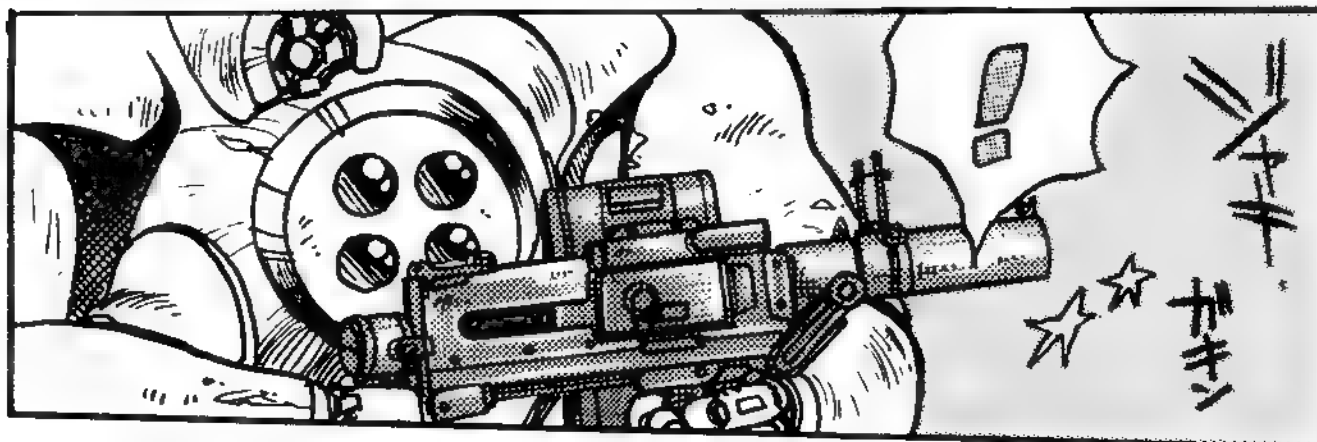


*FX: WHUP WHUP WHUP WHUP



*FX: KCHA

*FX: WEEEOOWEEEOO

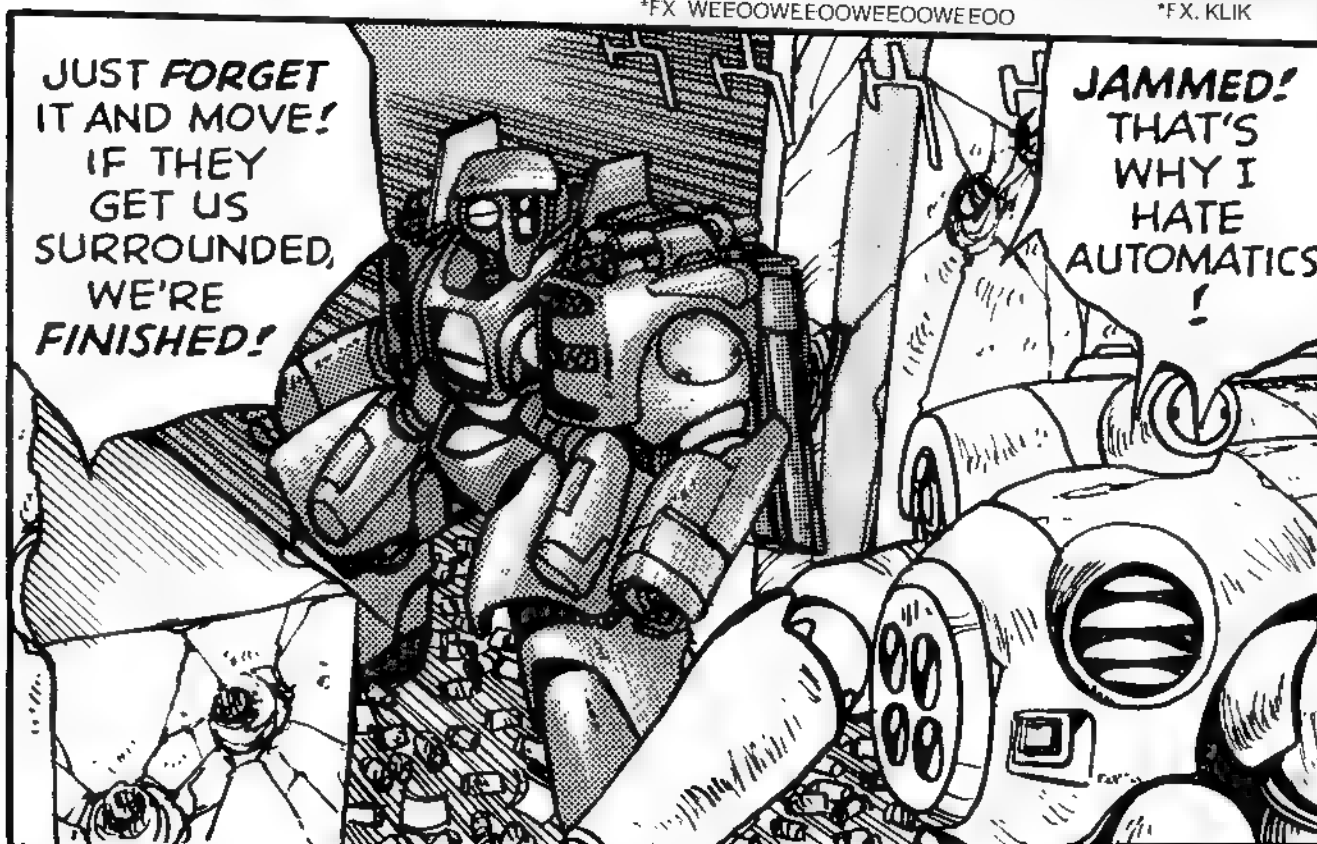


*FX: WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOO

*FX: KLIK

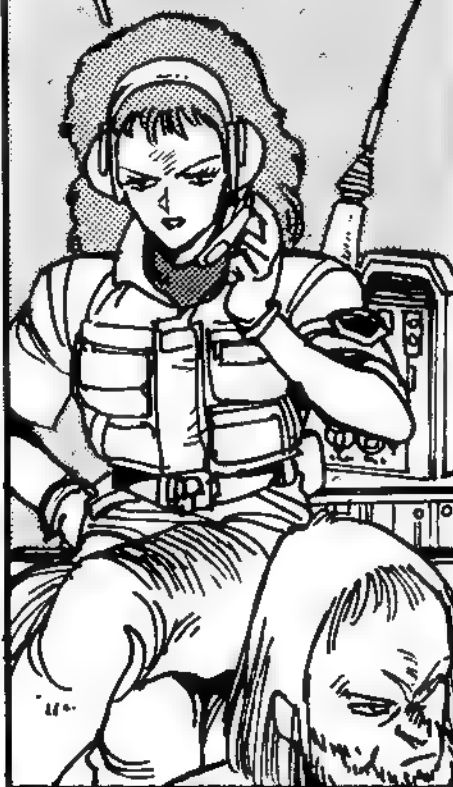
**JUST FORGET
IT AND MOVE!
IF THEY
GET US
SURROUNDED,
WE'RE
FINISHED!**

**JAMMED!
THAT'S
WHY I
HATE
AUTOMATICS
!**

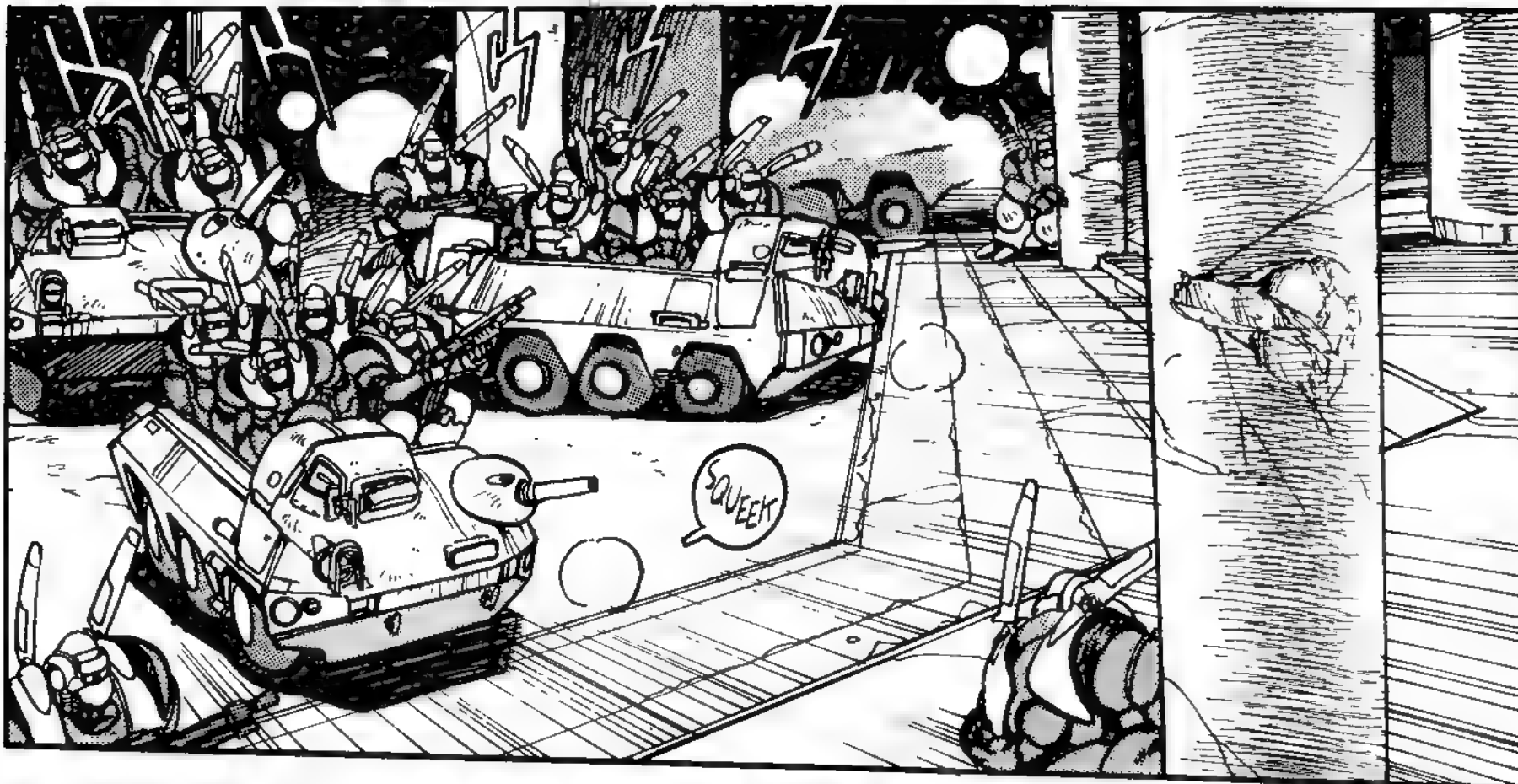


**POST A
CHOPPER
OUTSIDE
EACH
GATE,
THOUGH,
JUST
IN
CASE.**

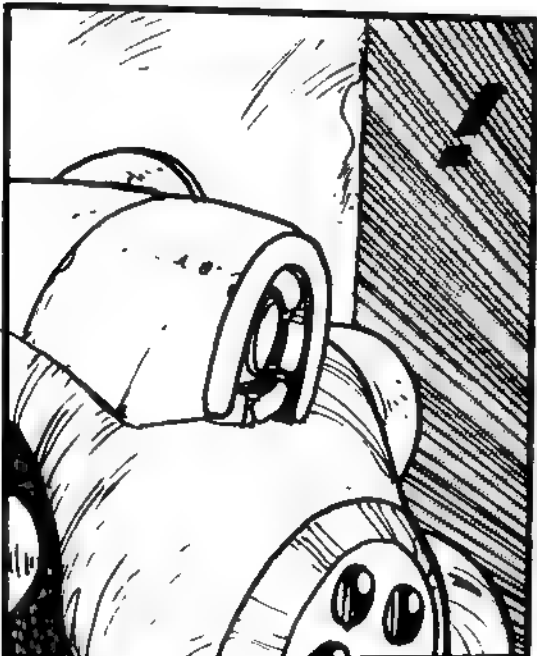
**NO, DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.
THAT'S
FINE.**



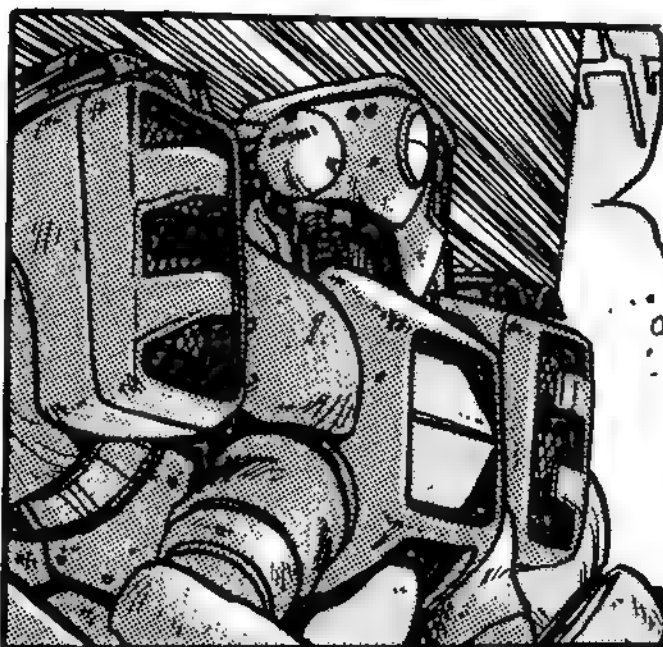
*FX WEEEOOWEEFOOWEEEOOWEEFOO



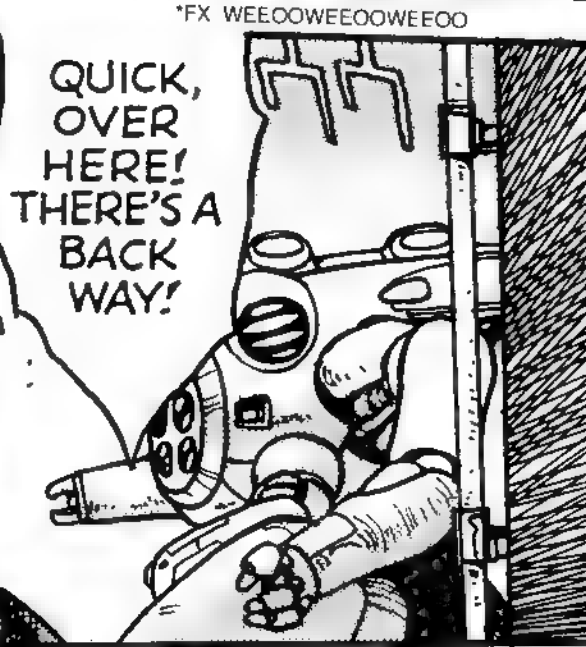
*FX WEEEOOWEEFOO



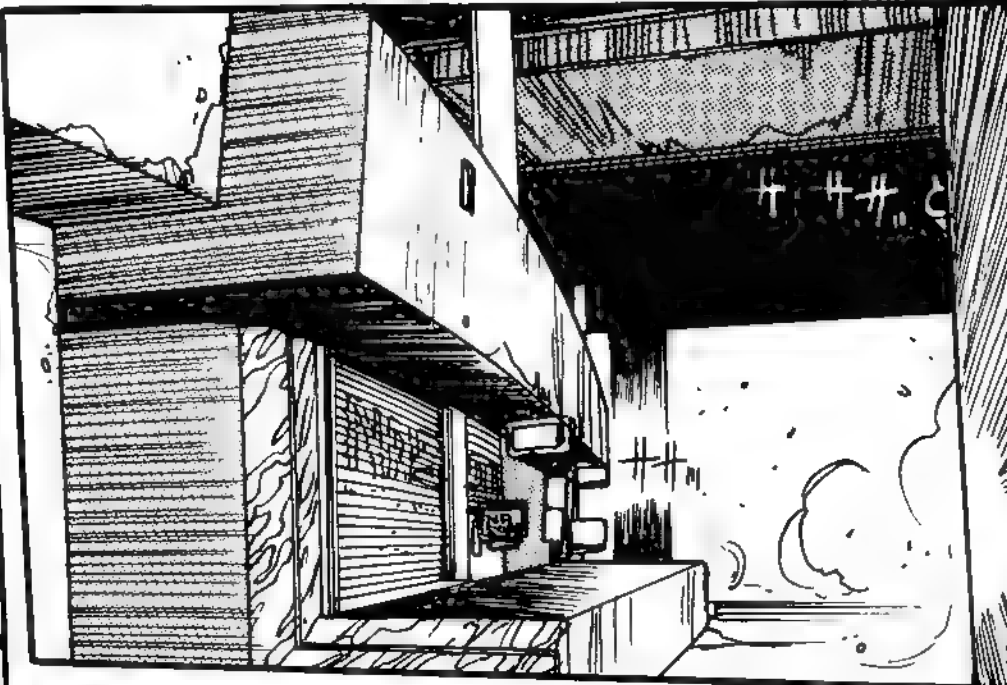
*FX SPAK SPAK



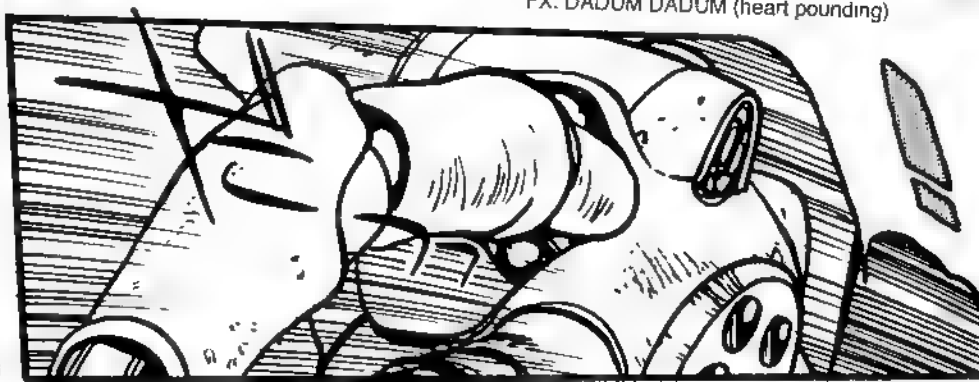
*FX BAM BAM



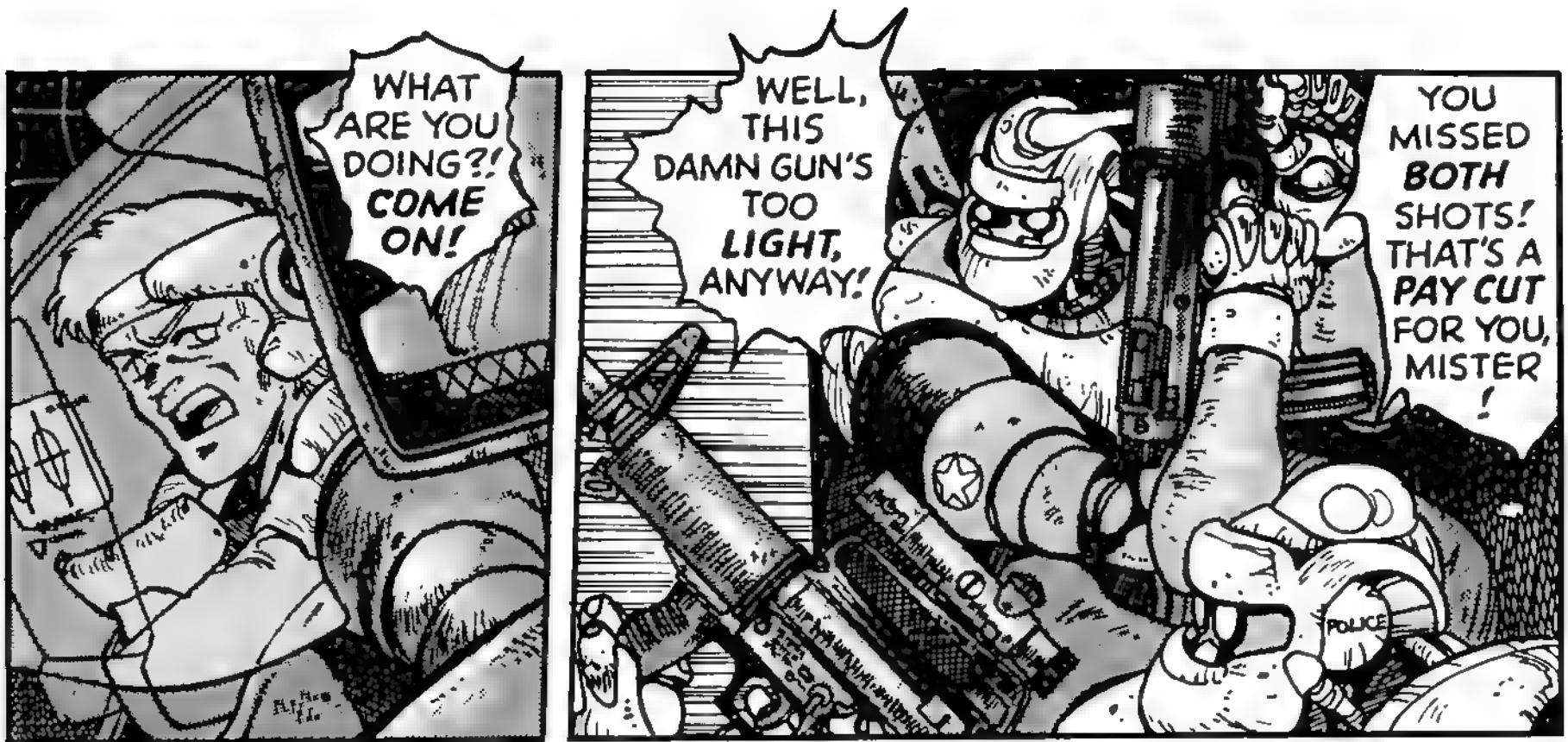
*FX. WSHWSHWSH



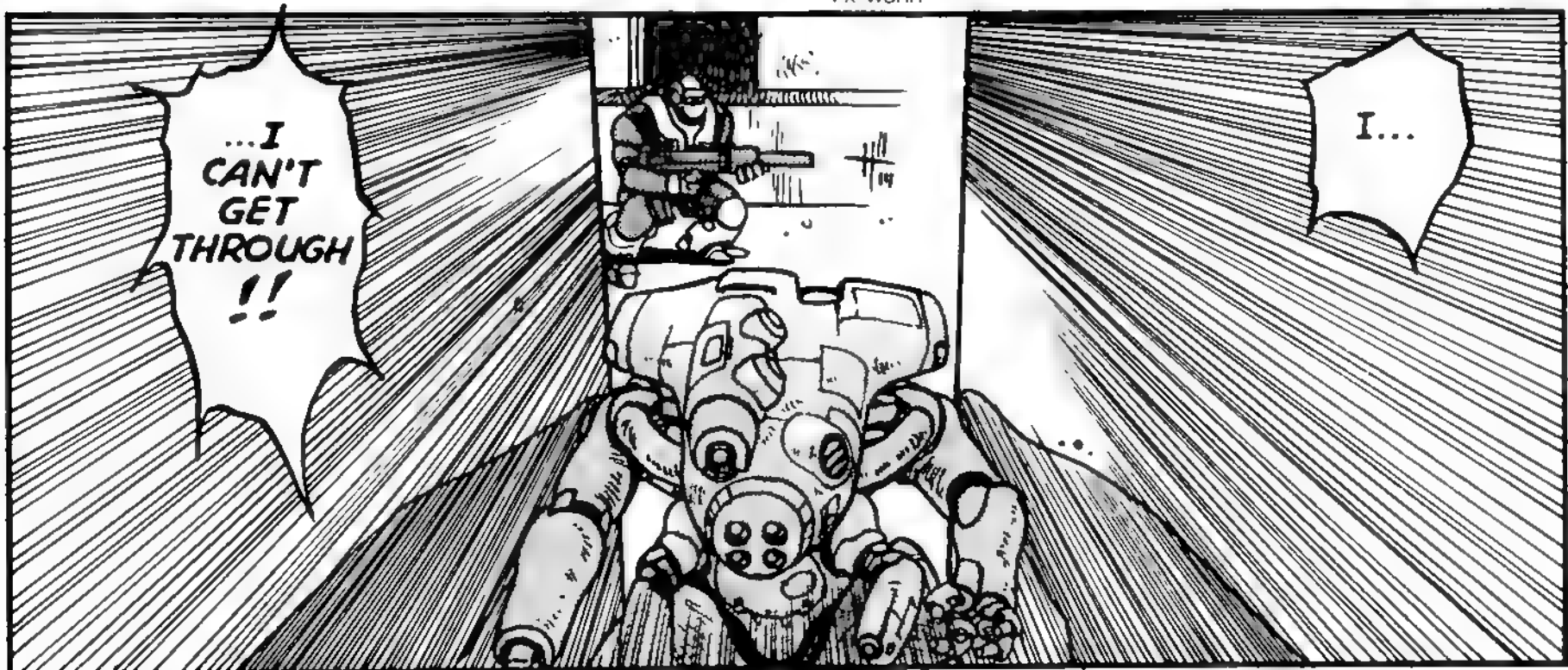
*FX. DADUM DADUM (heart pounding)



*FX WHSST

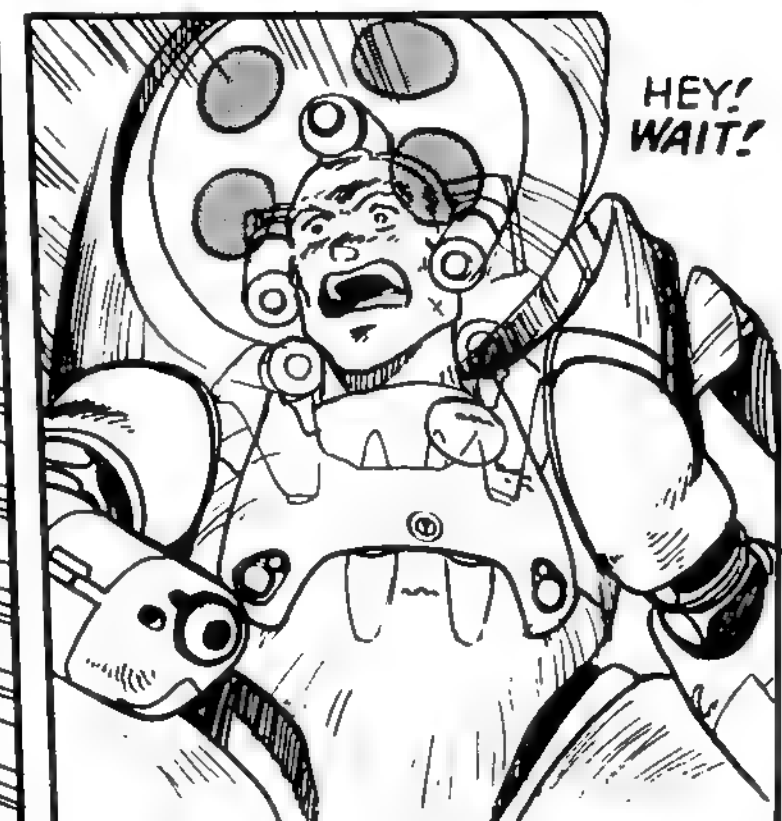
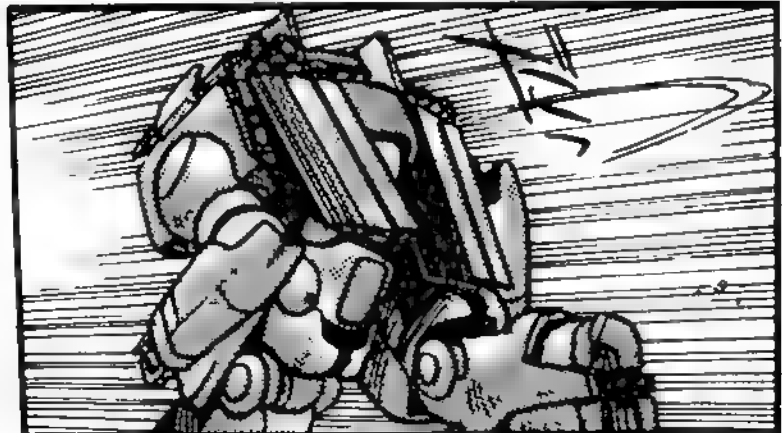
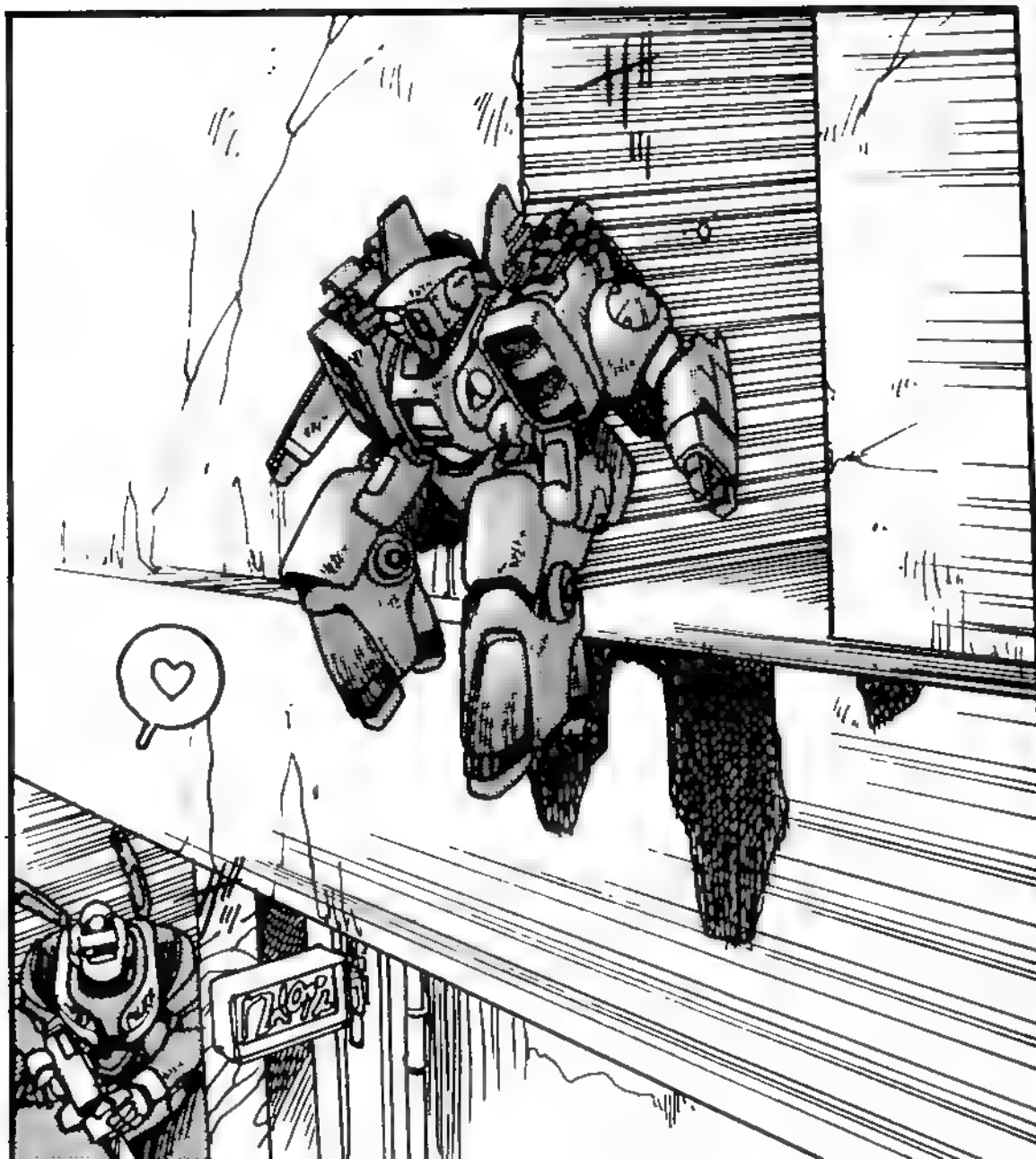


*FX WSHH

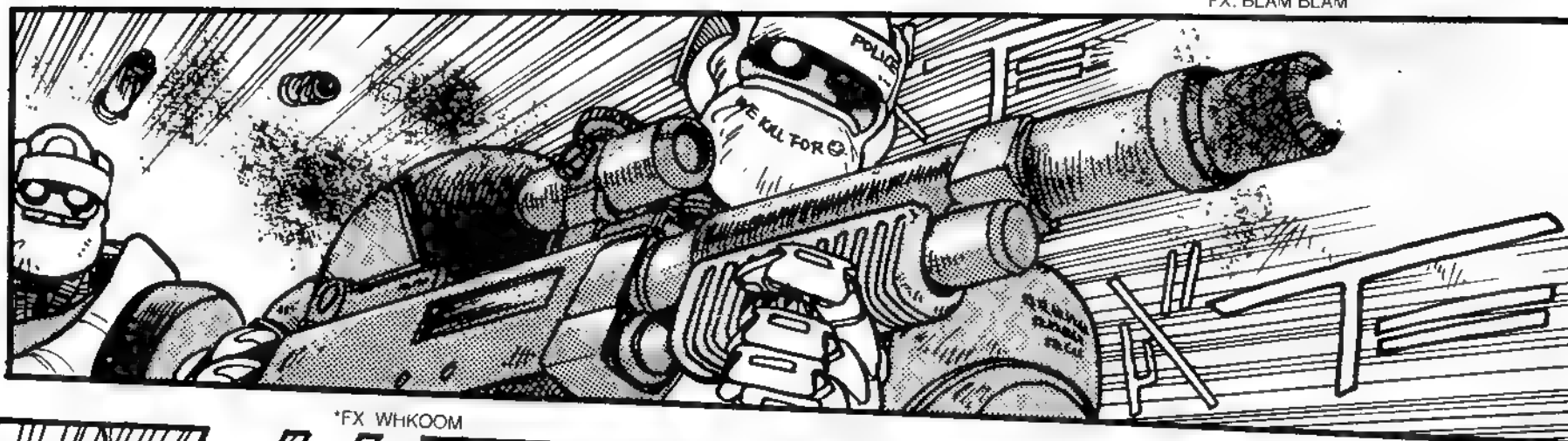


*FX WSHH

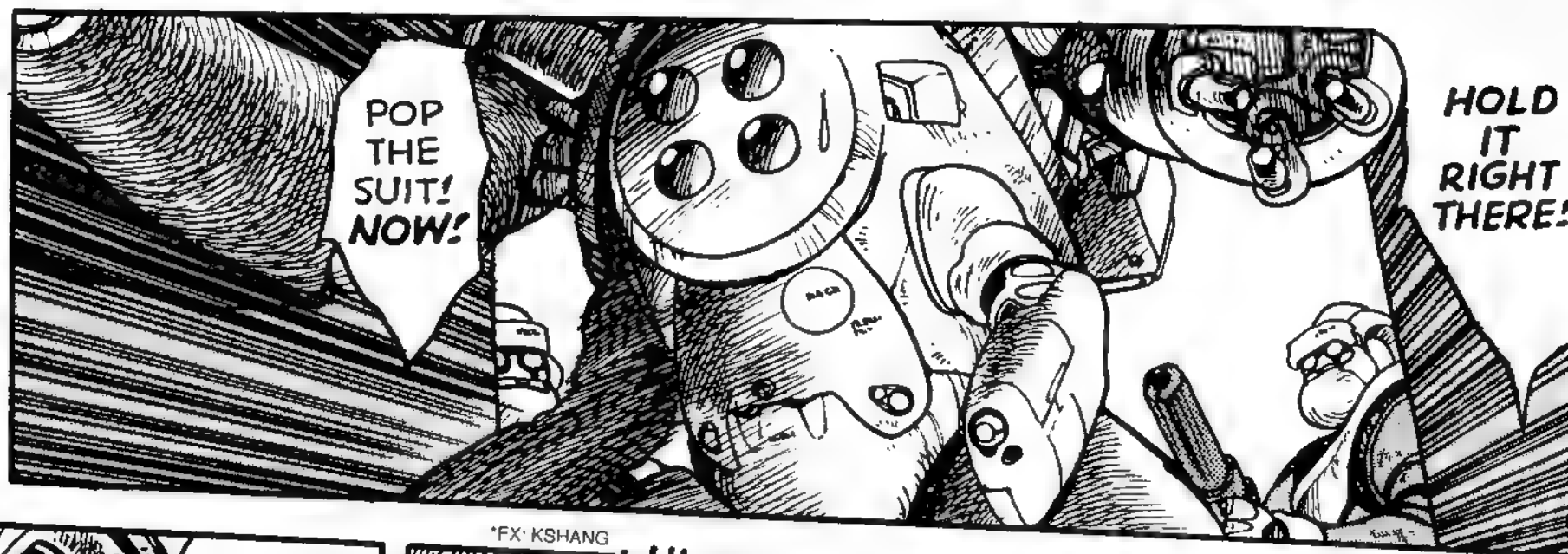
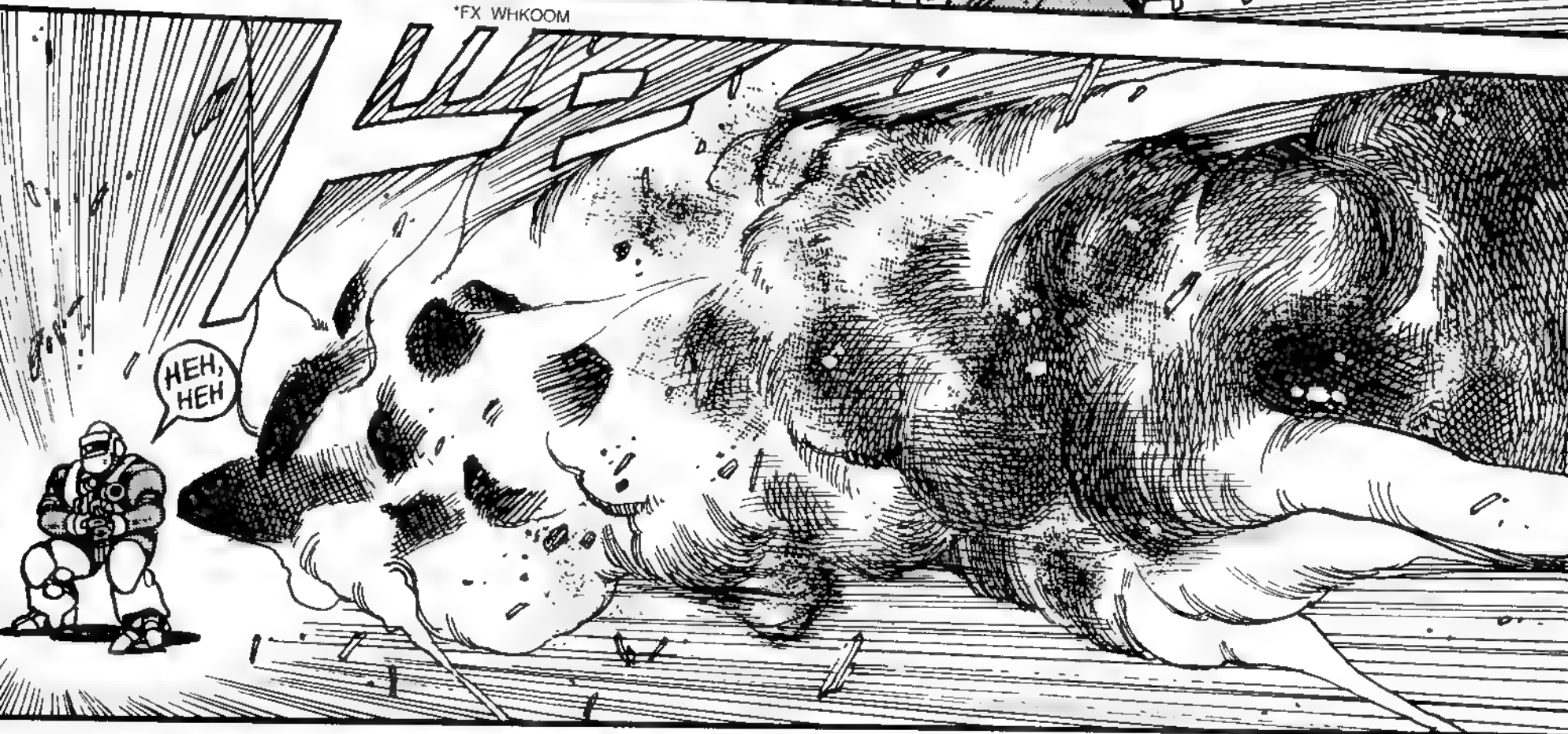
*FX VSHT VSHT



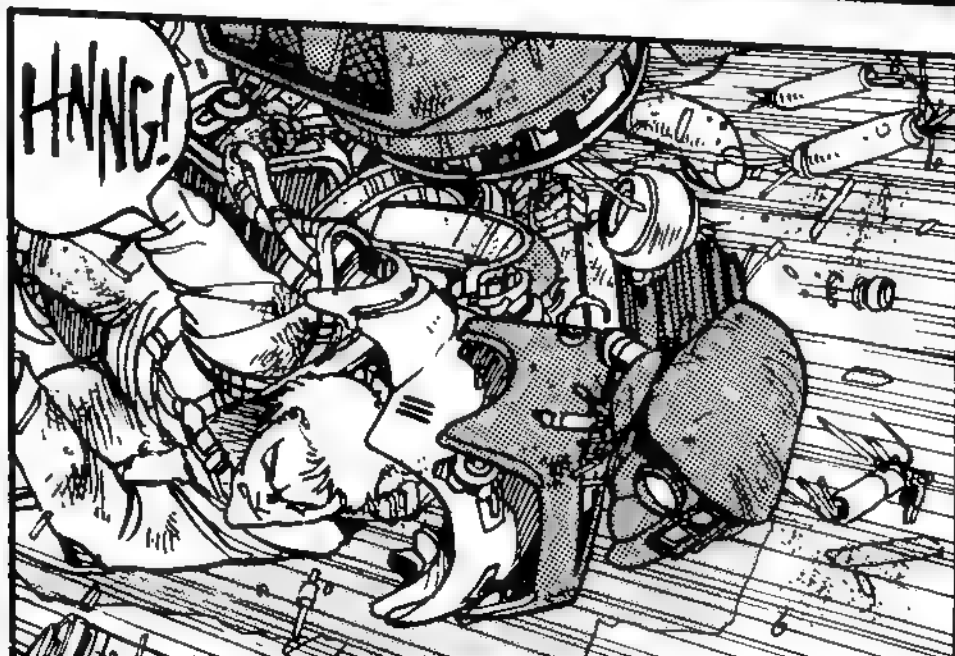
*FX. BLAM BLAM



*FX WHKOOM



*FX KSHANG



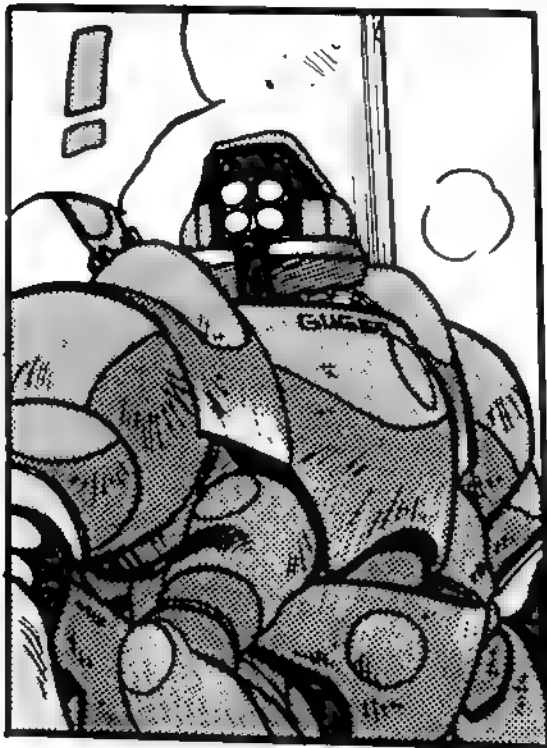
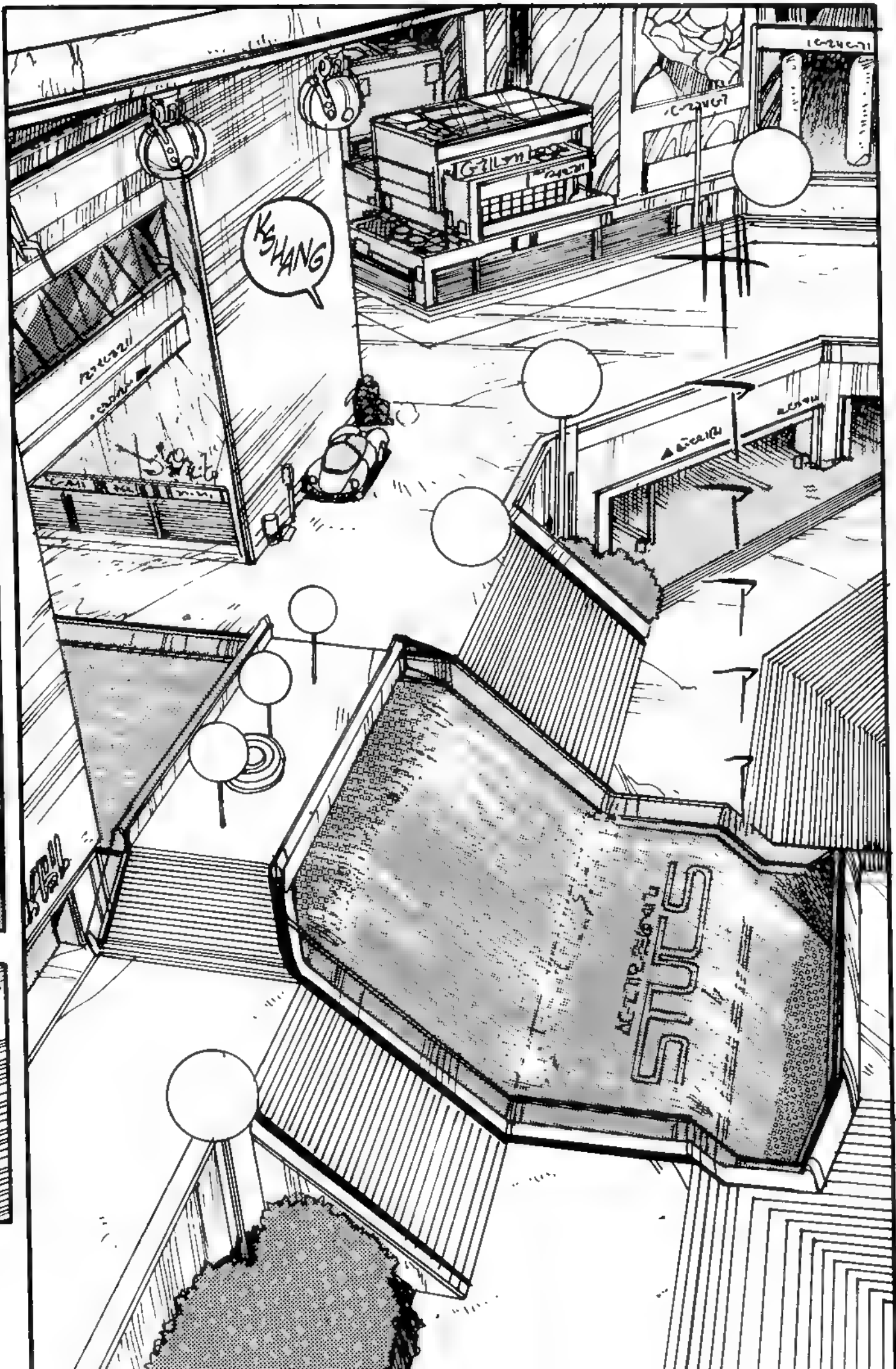
*FX BLAM



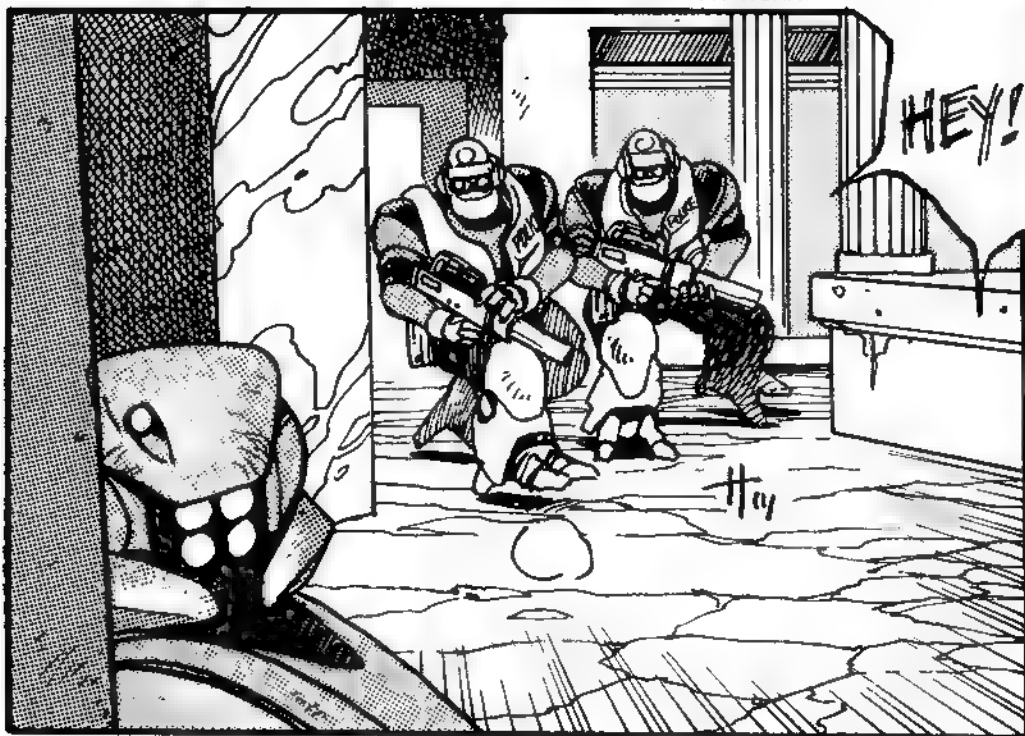
*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEO



*FX KSSSHHH



*FX WSHH



*FX DADUM DADUM



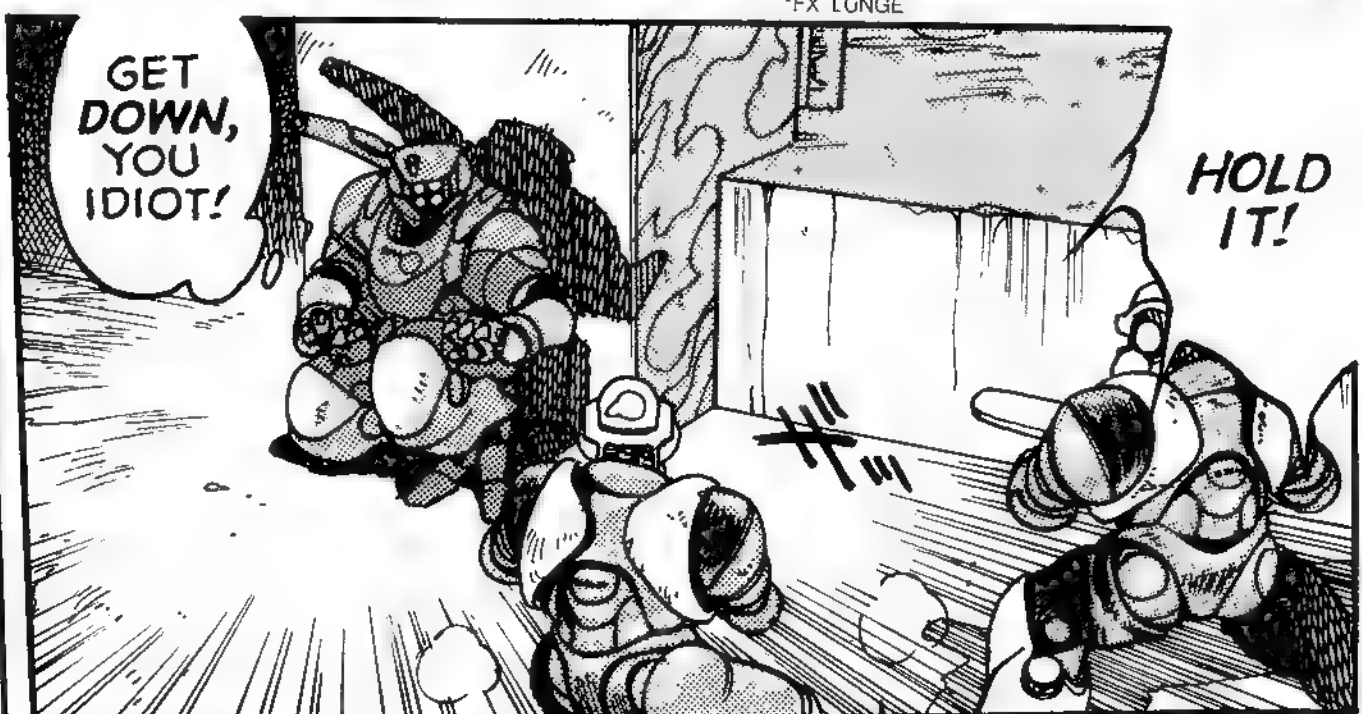
*FX DADUM (heart pounding)



*FX THDD



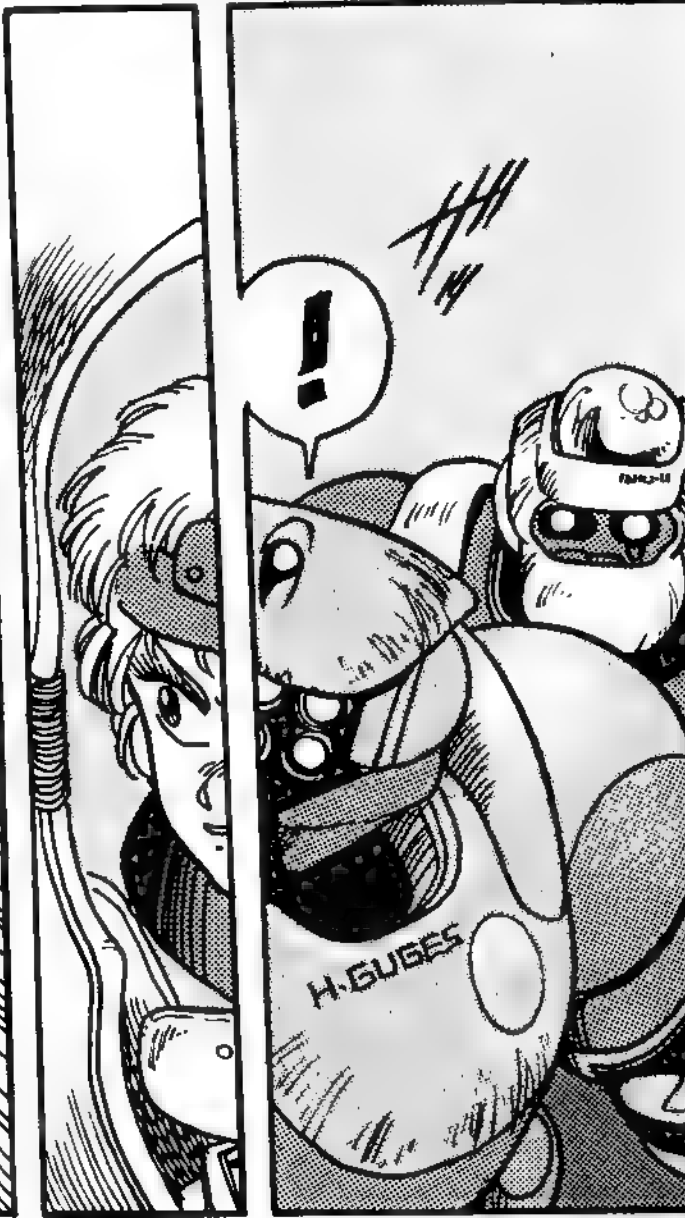
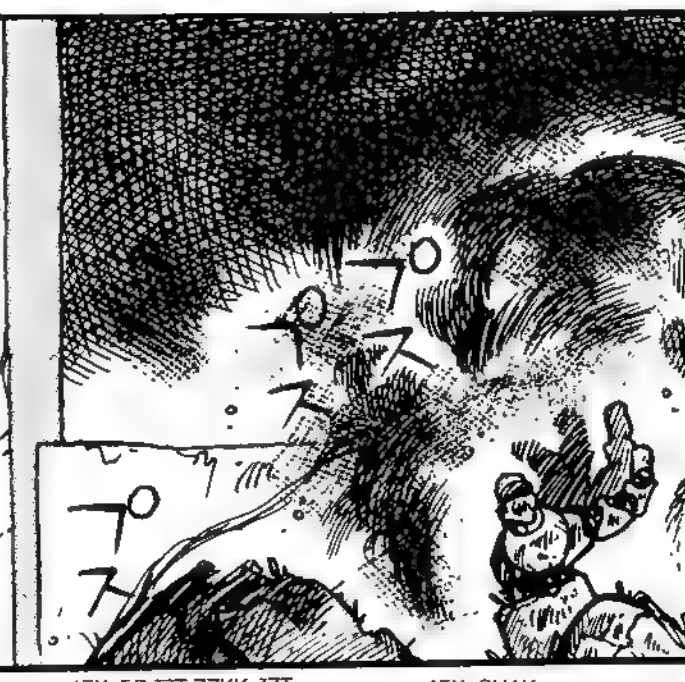
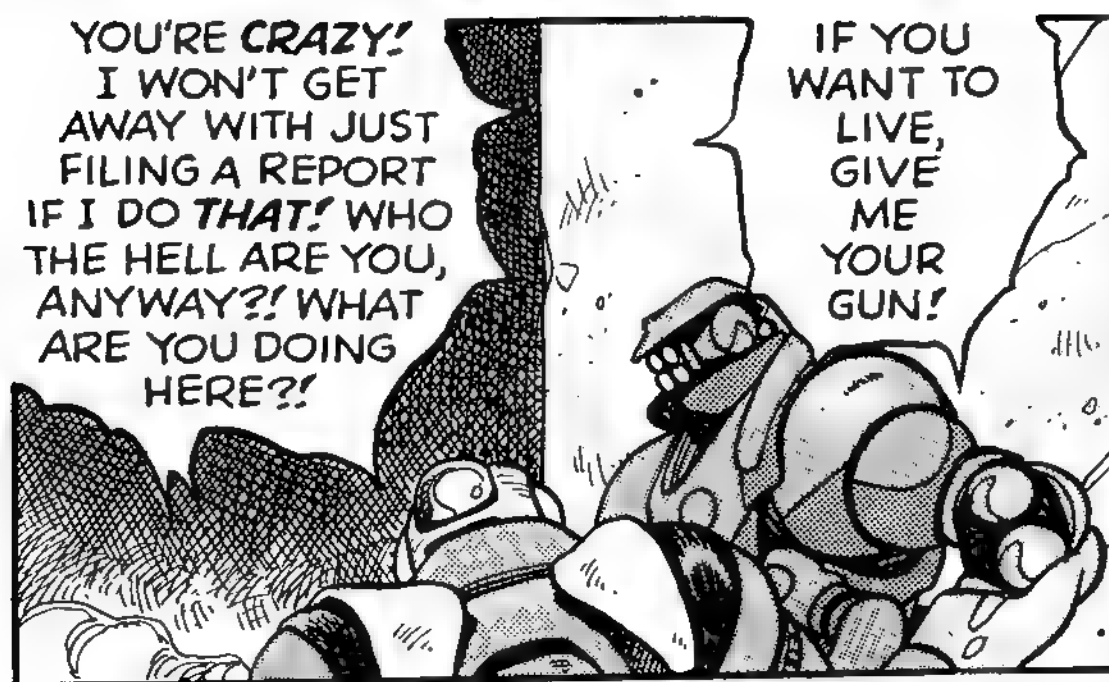
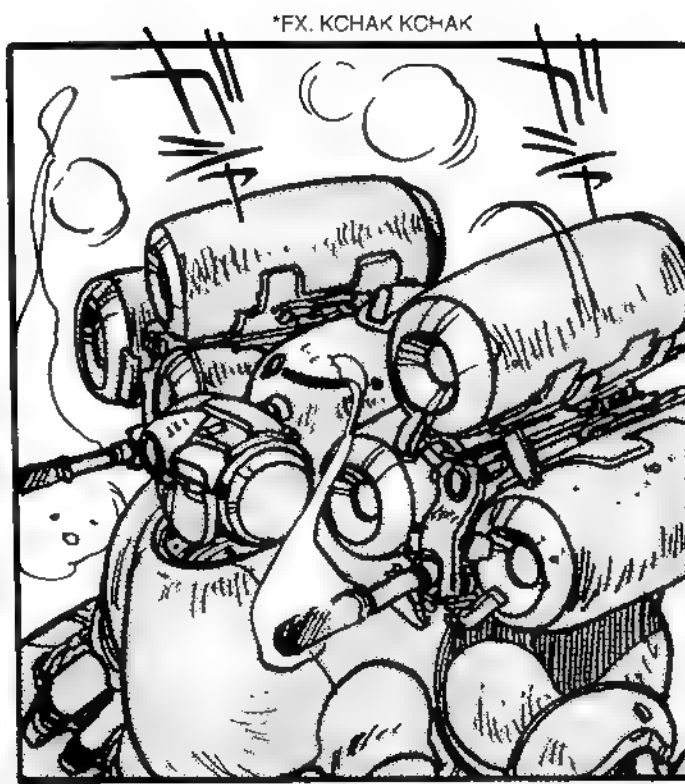
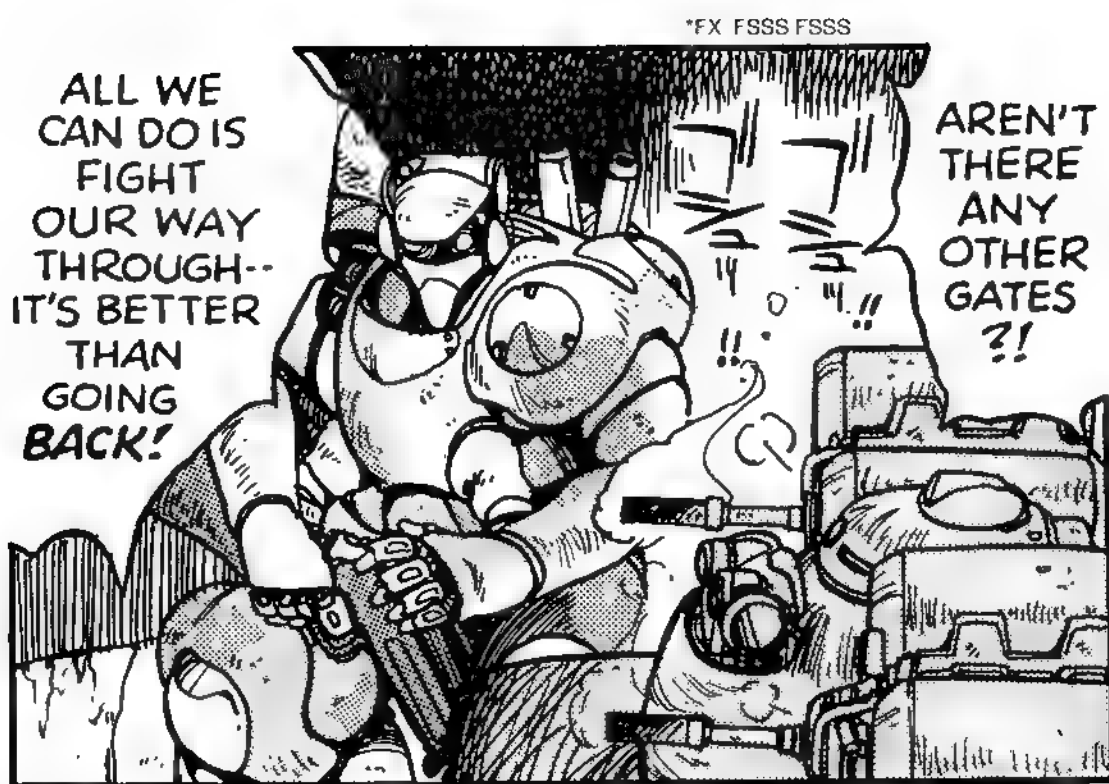
*FX LUNGE

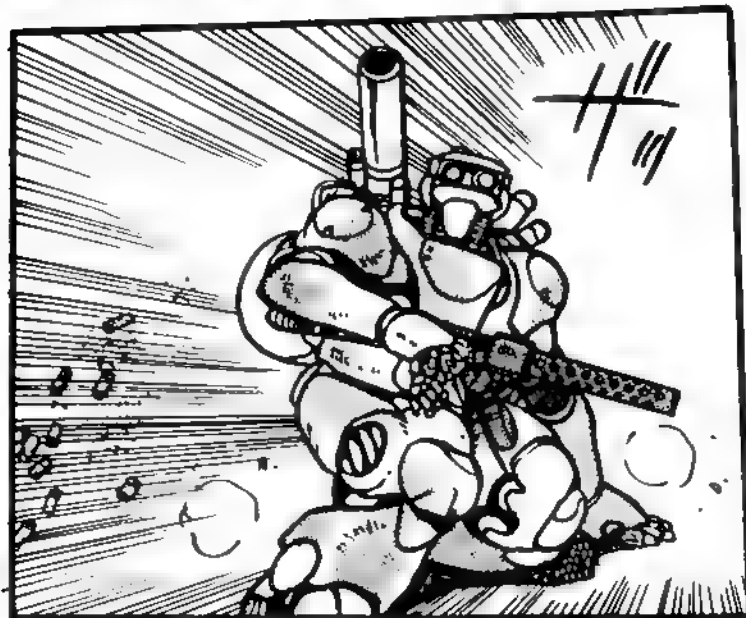
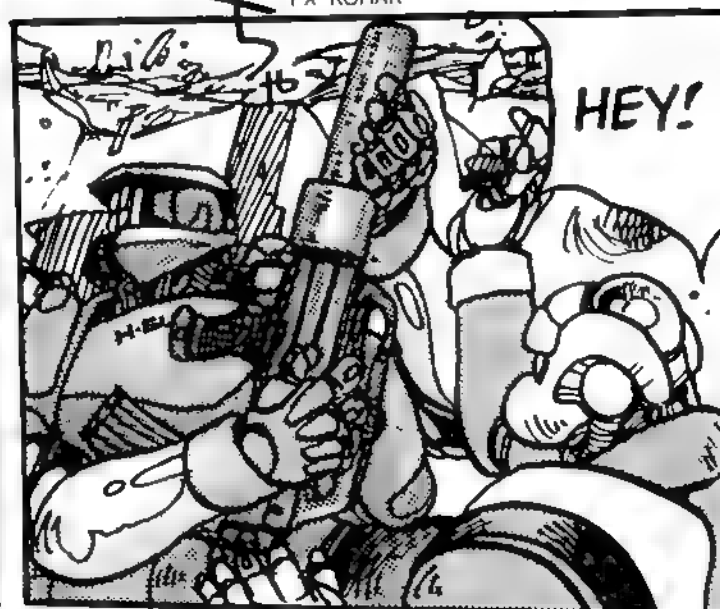


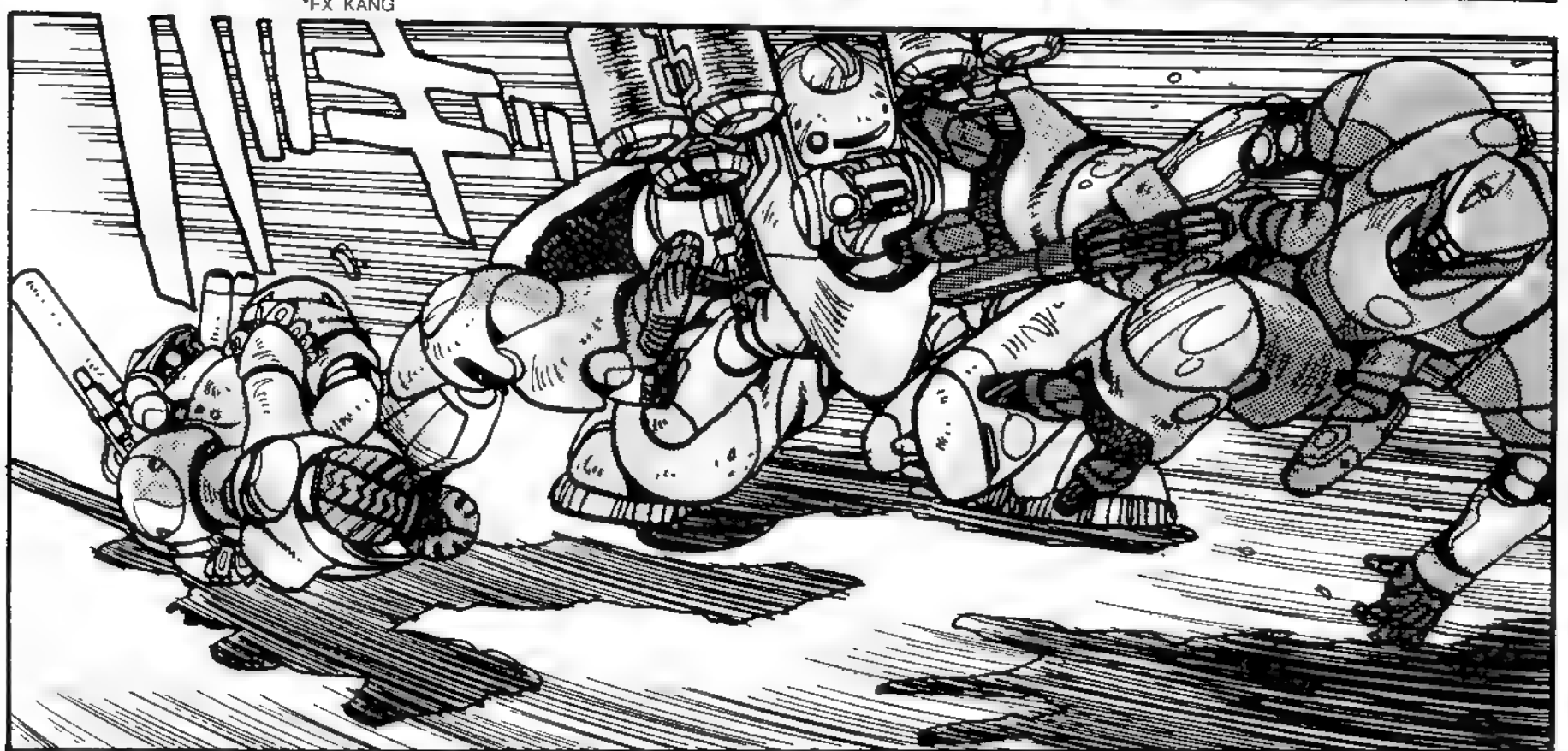
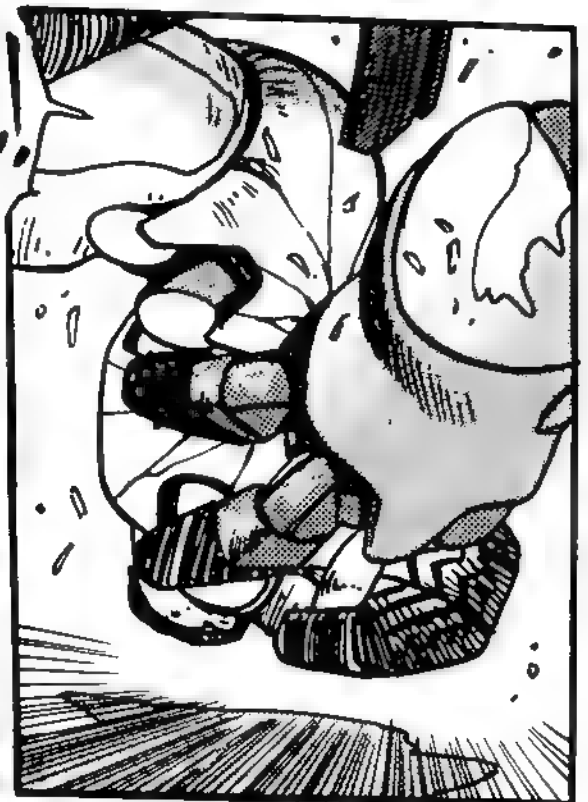
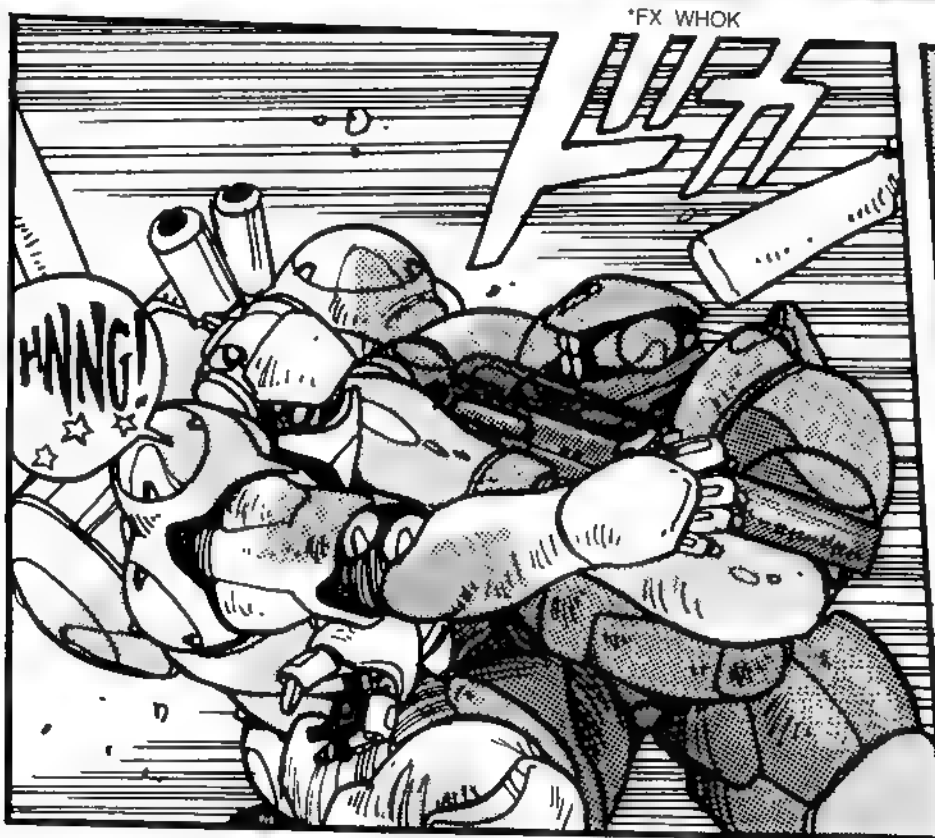
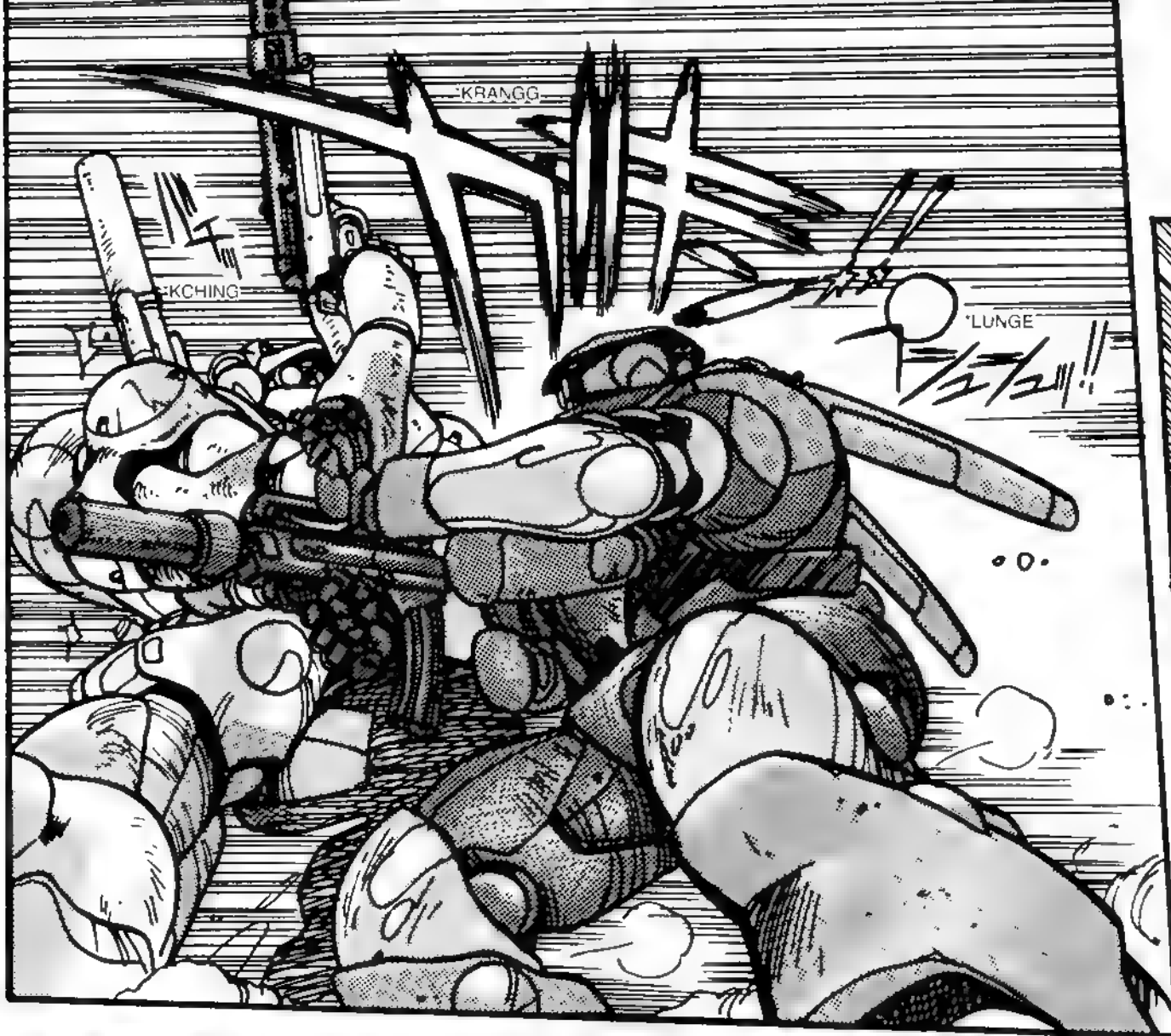
*FX WHKOOM



*FX FZZT ZZT

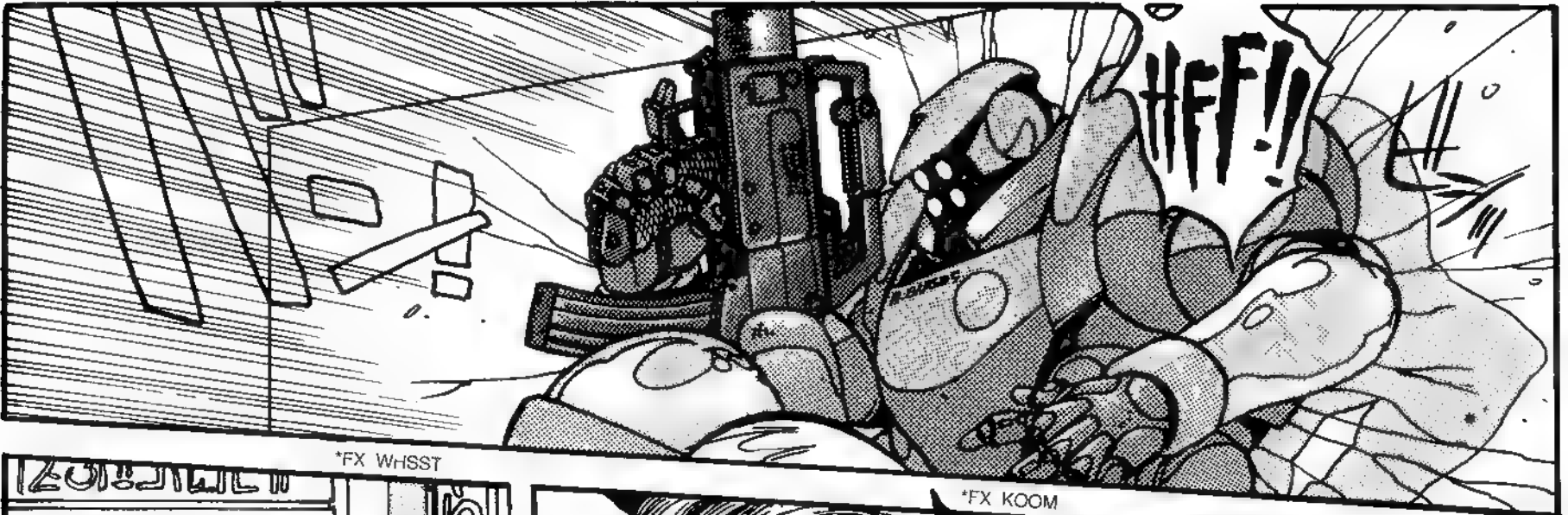




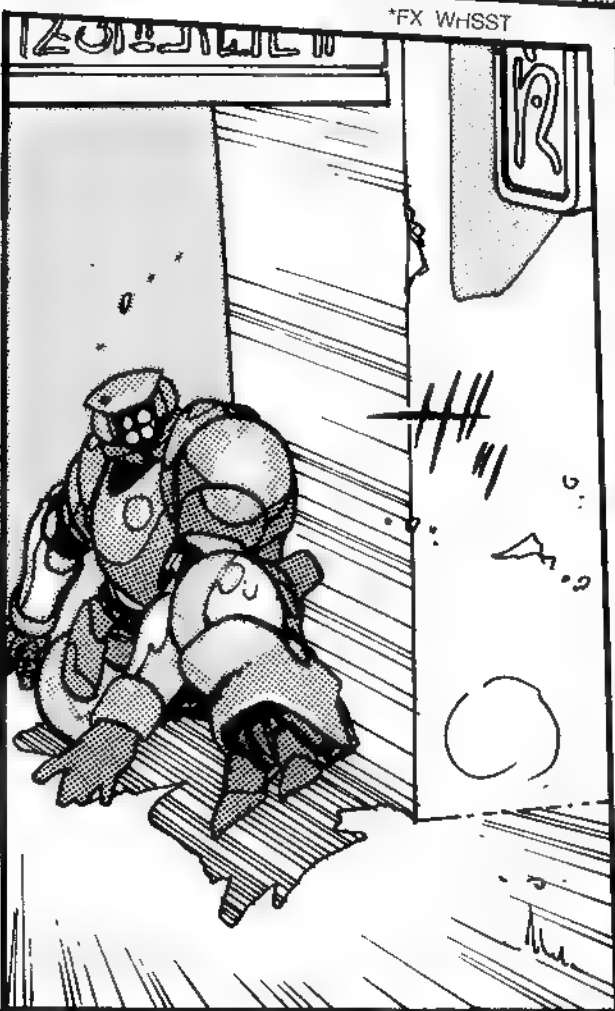


*FX WHDD

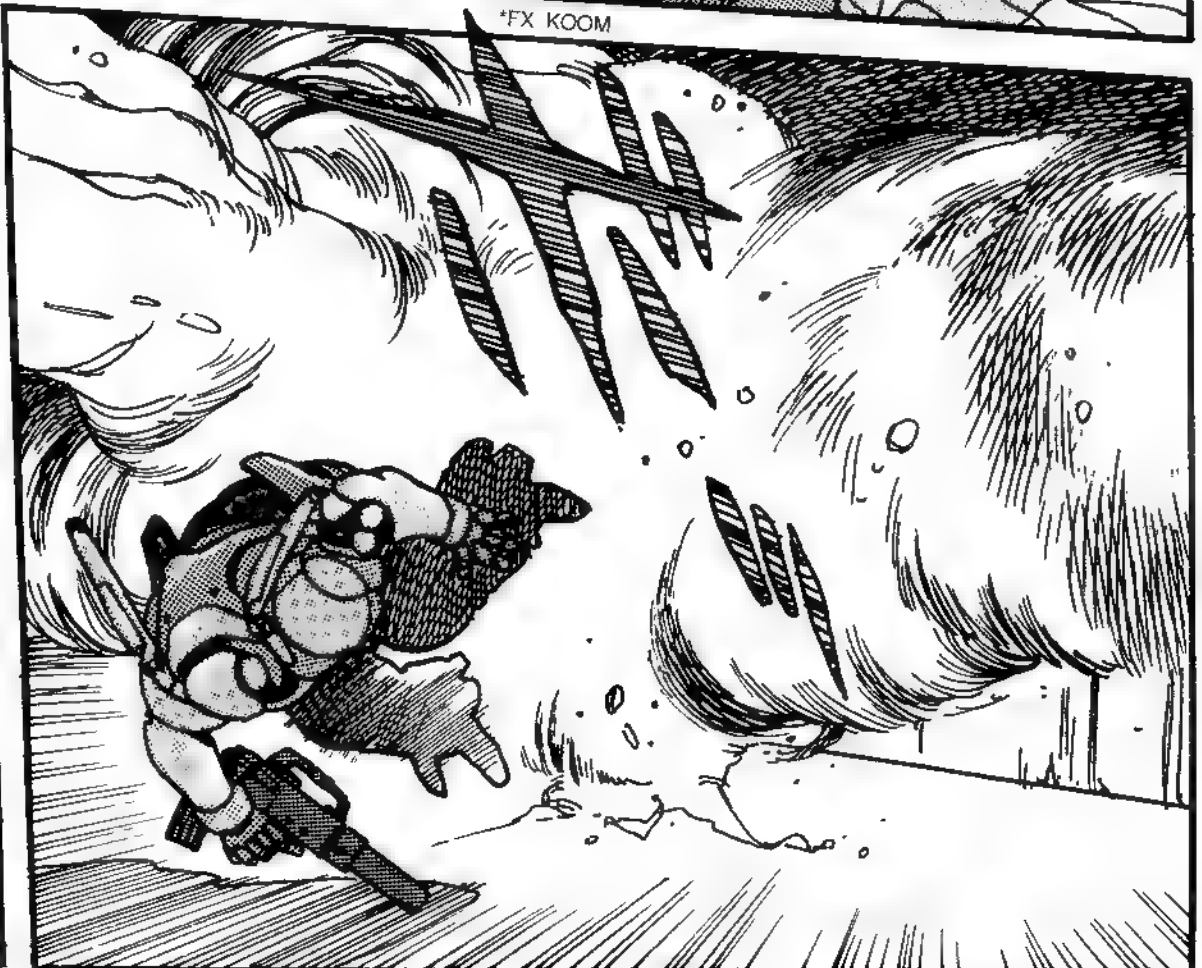
*FX SKRAK



*FX WHSST



*FX KOOM



*FX BEEP



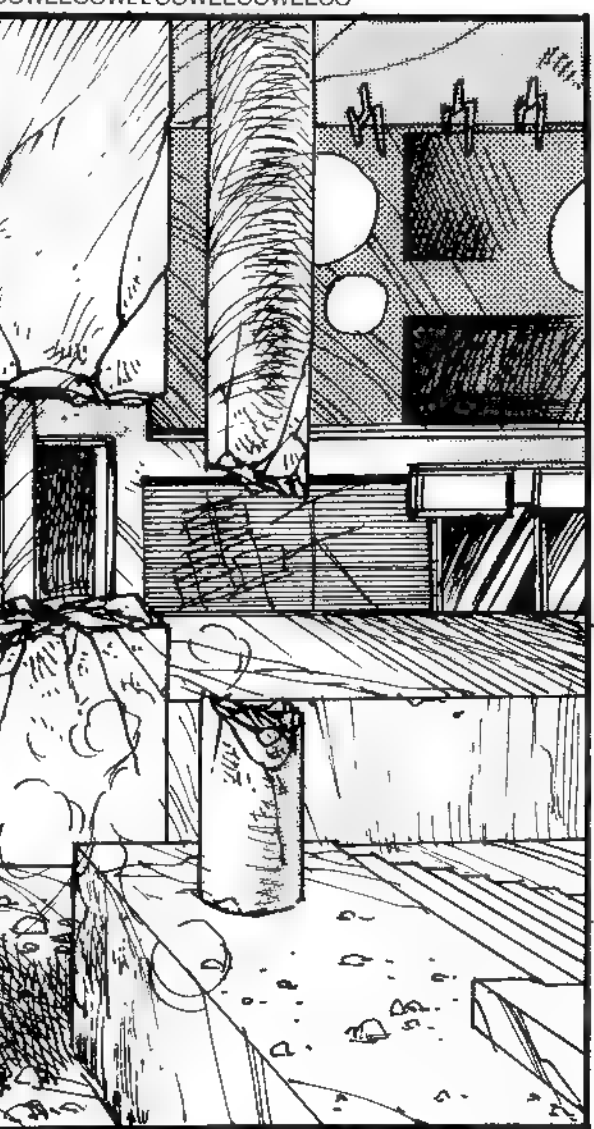
*FX BEEP



*FX BEEP

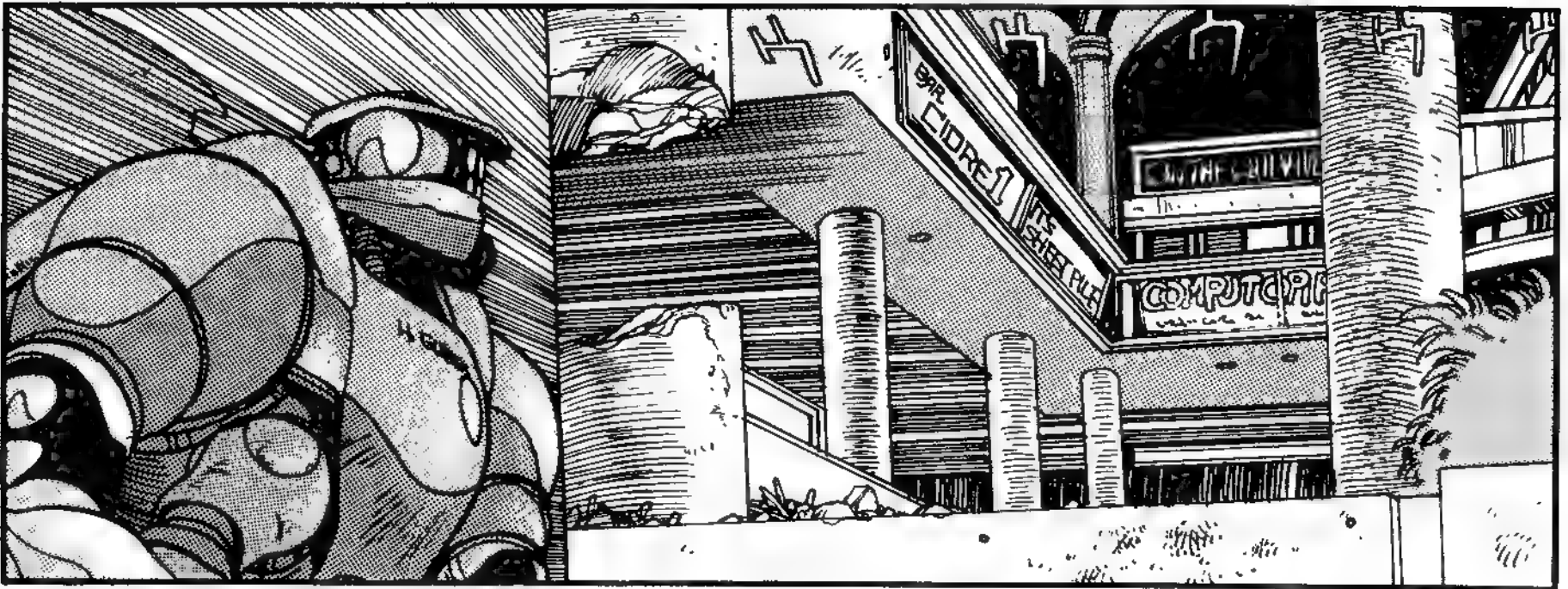


*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOO



*FX HUFF HUFF

*FX CHK CHK (debris falling)



"ALWAYS KNOW
HOW MUCH AMMO
YOU HAVE
LEFT..."



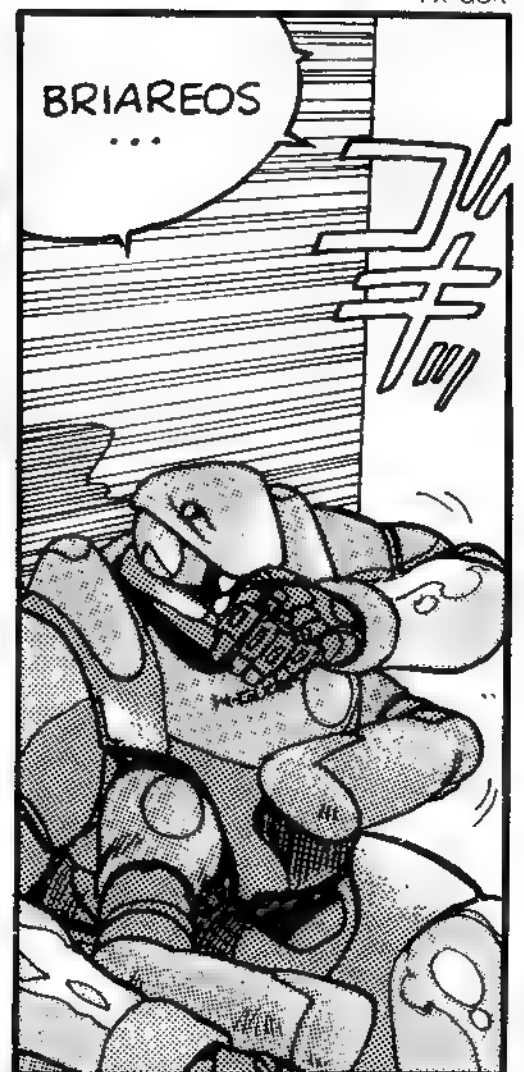
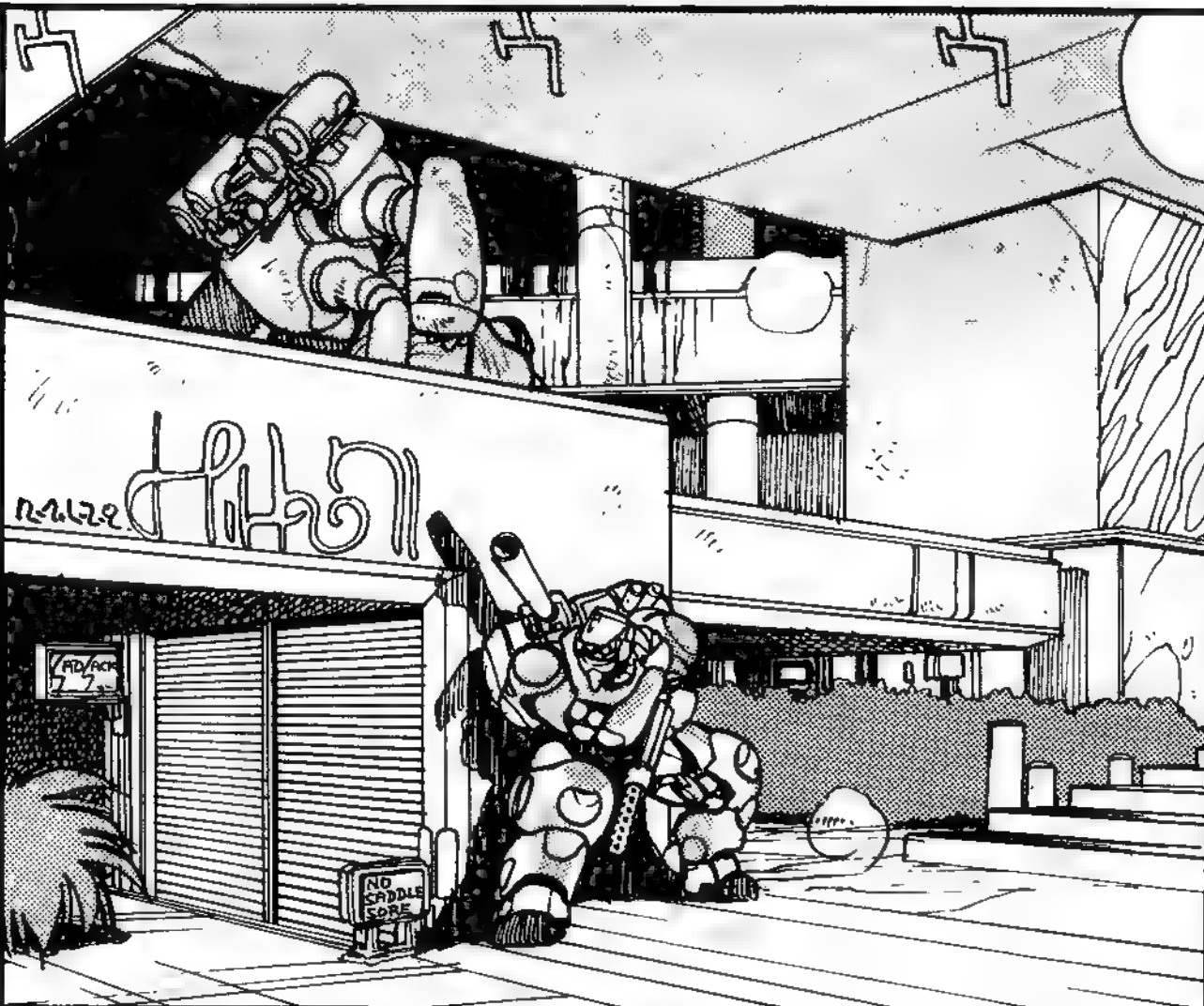
TWO...
THREE...

...FOUR
ROUNDS.

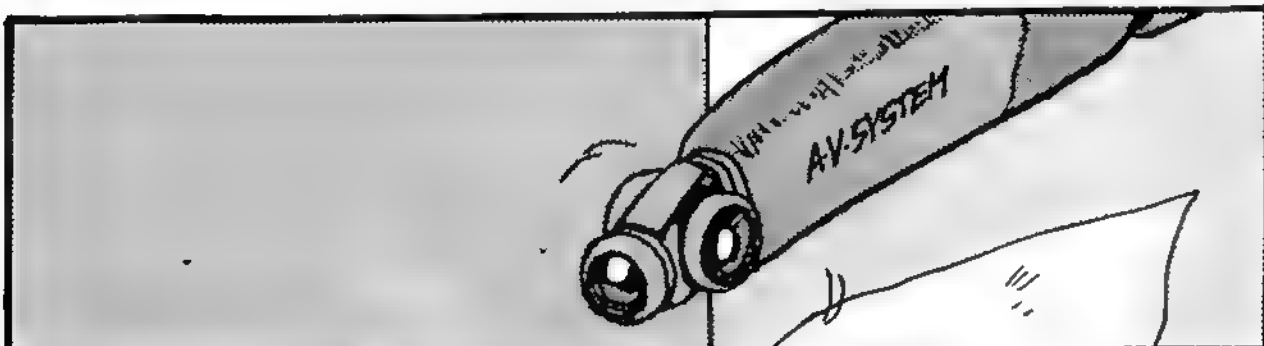
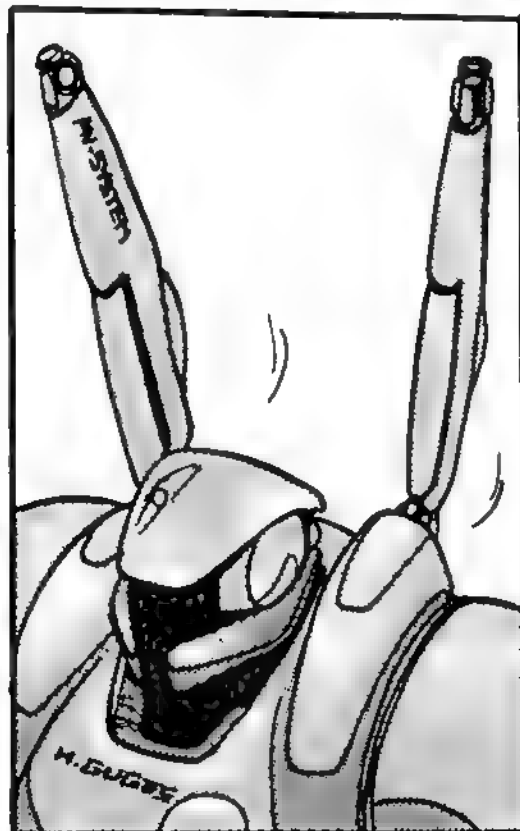
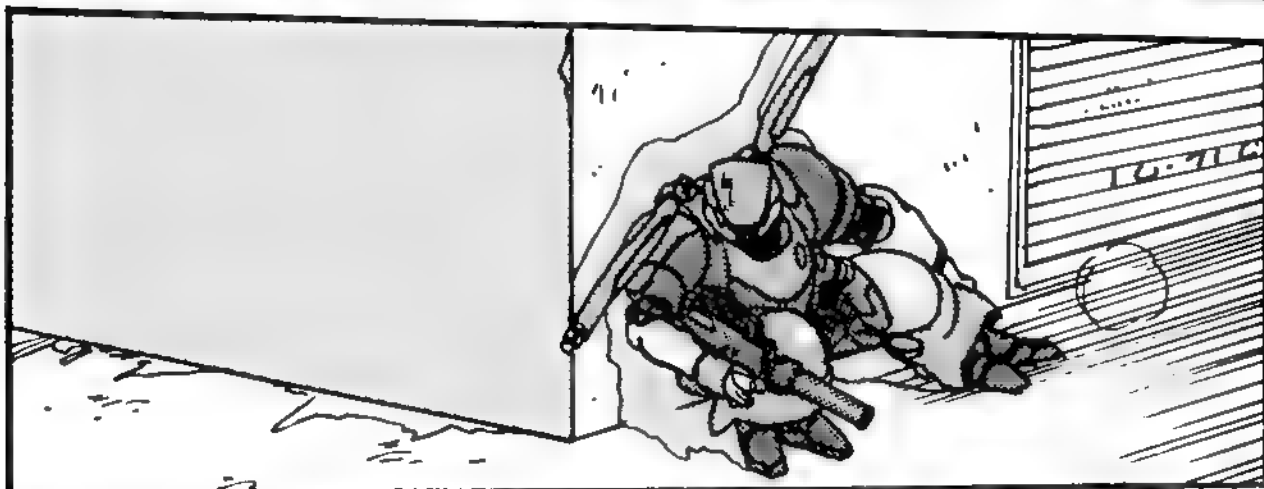
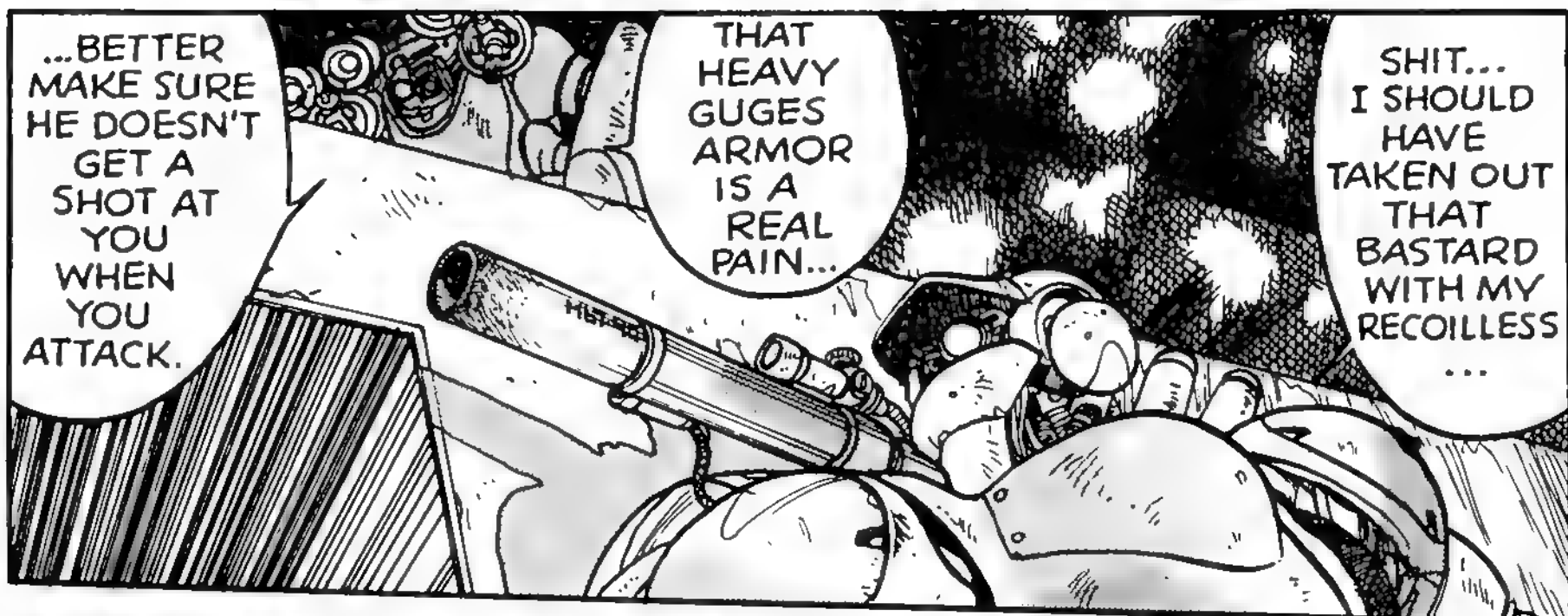
Huh! THEIR
ARMOR MAY BE
THIN, BUT NOT
THAT THIN.
WHAT GOOD
ARE NON-AP
SHELLS LIKE
THIS GOING
TO BE?

*FX WEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOO

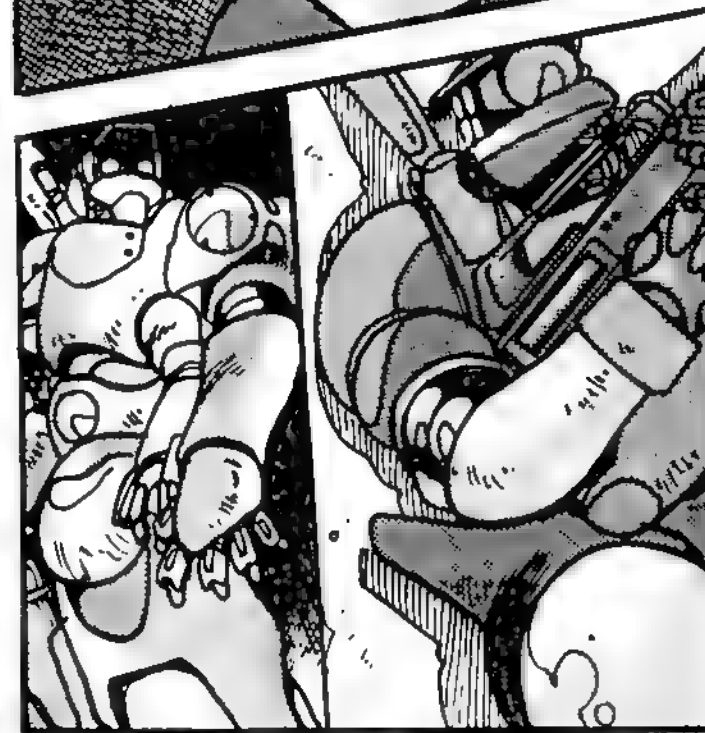
*FX GOK



BRIAREOS
...

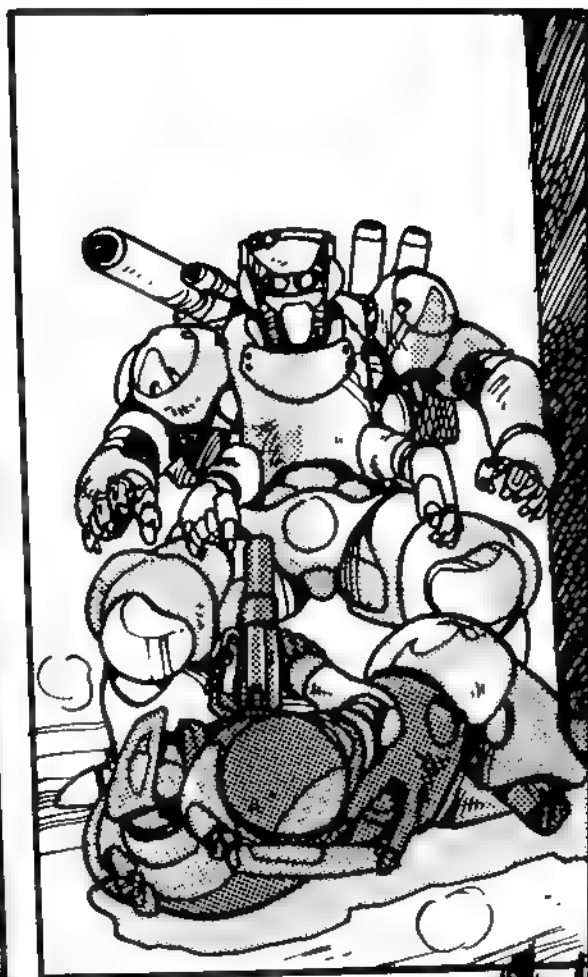


*FX WSHH





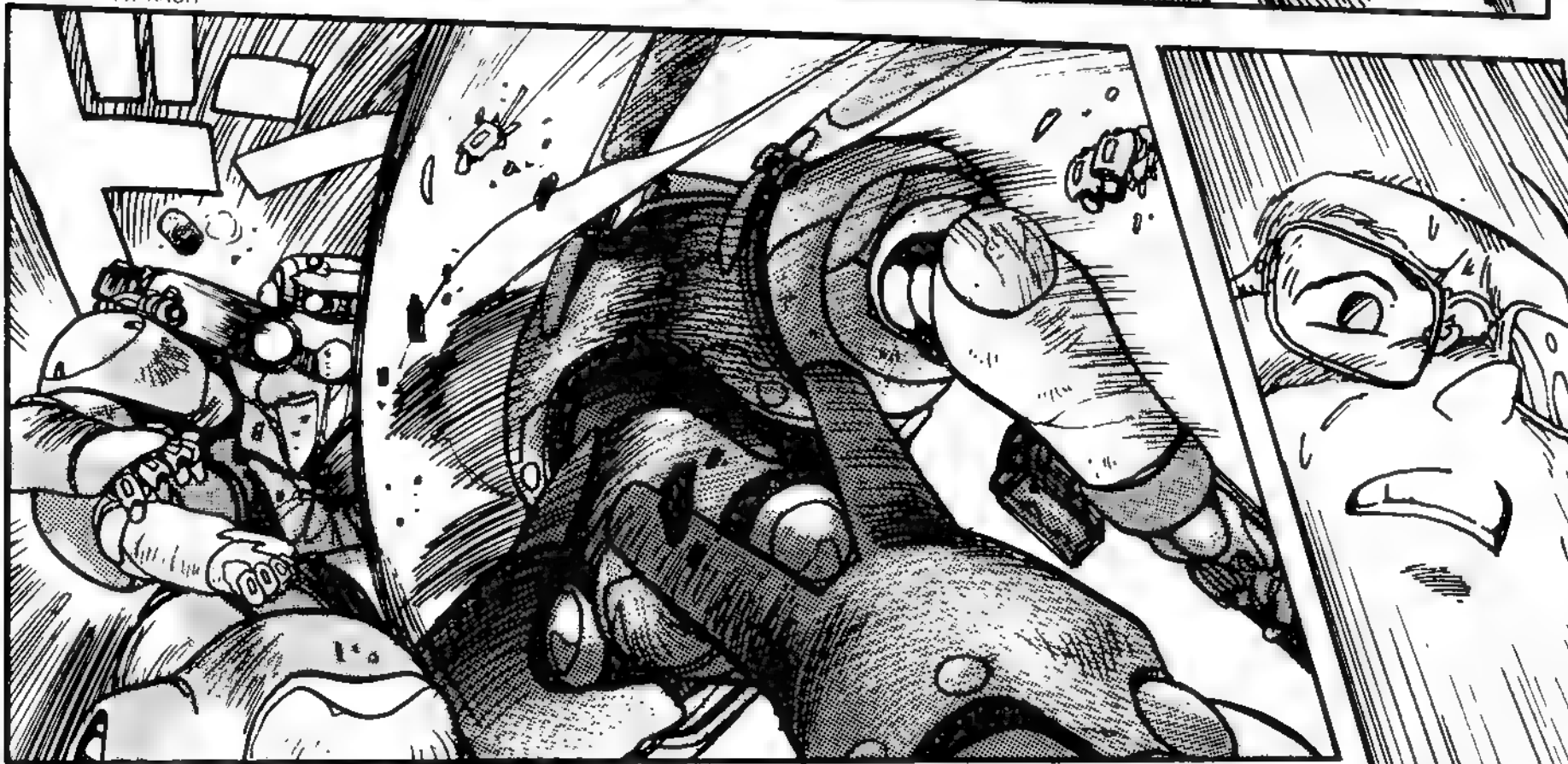
*FX SPAK SPAK

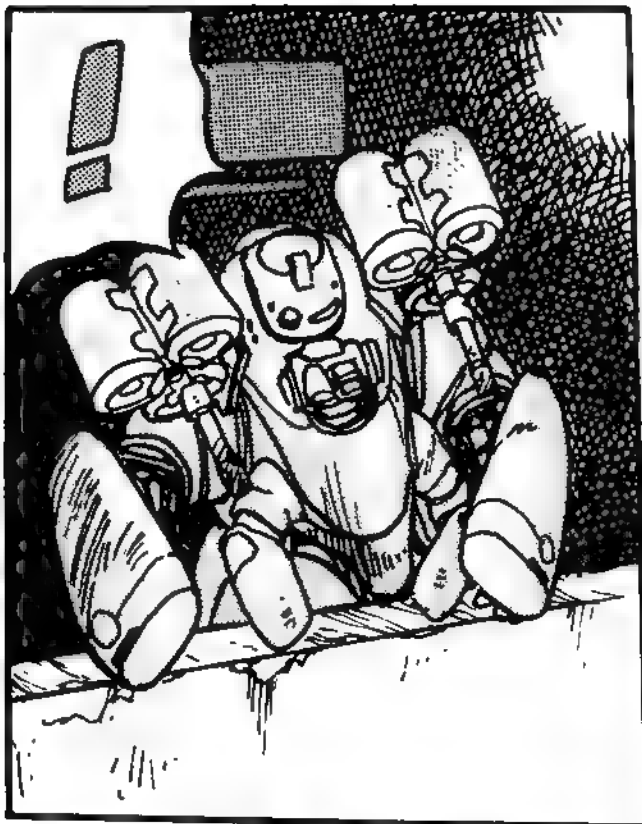


*FX VNNN



*FX KNCH





AA...
AAA!

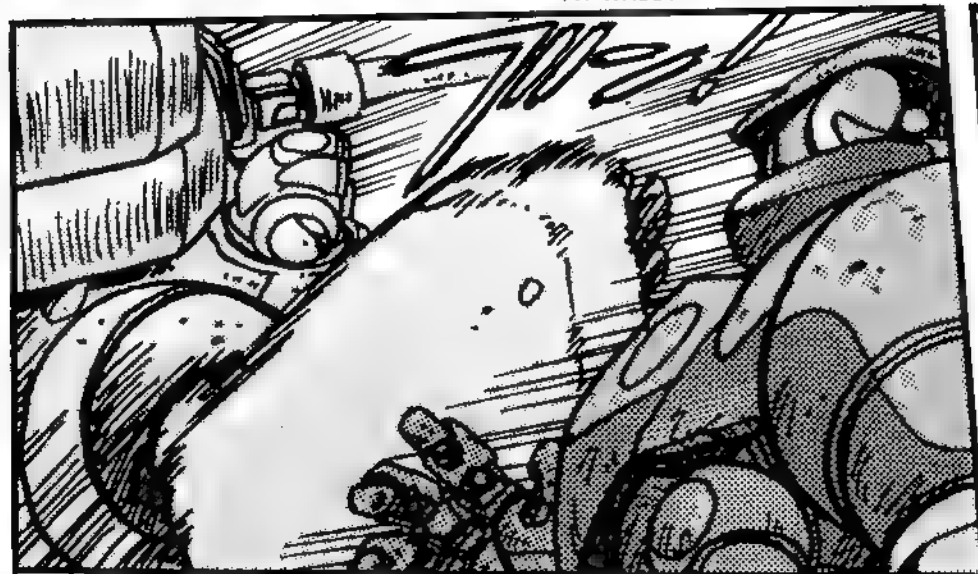
*FX SPZZAKK



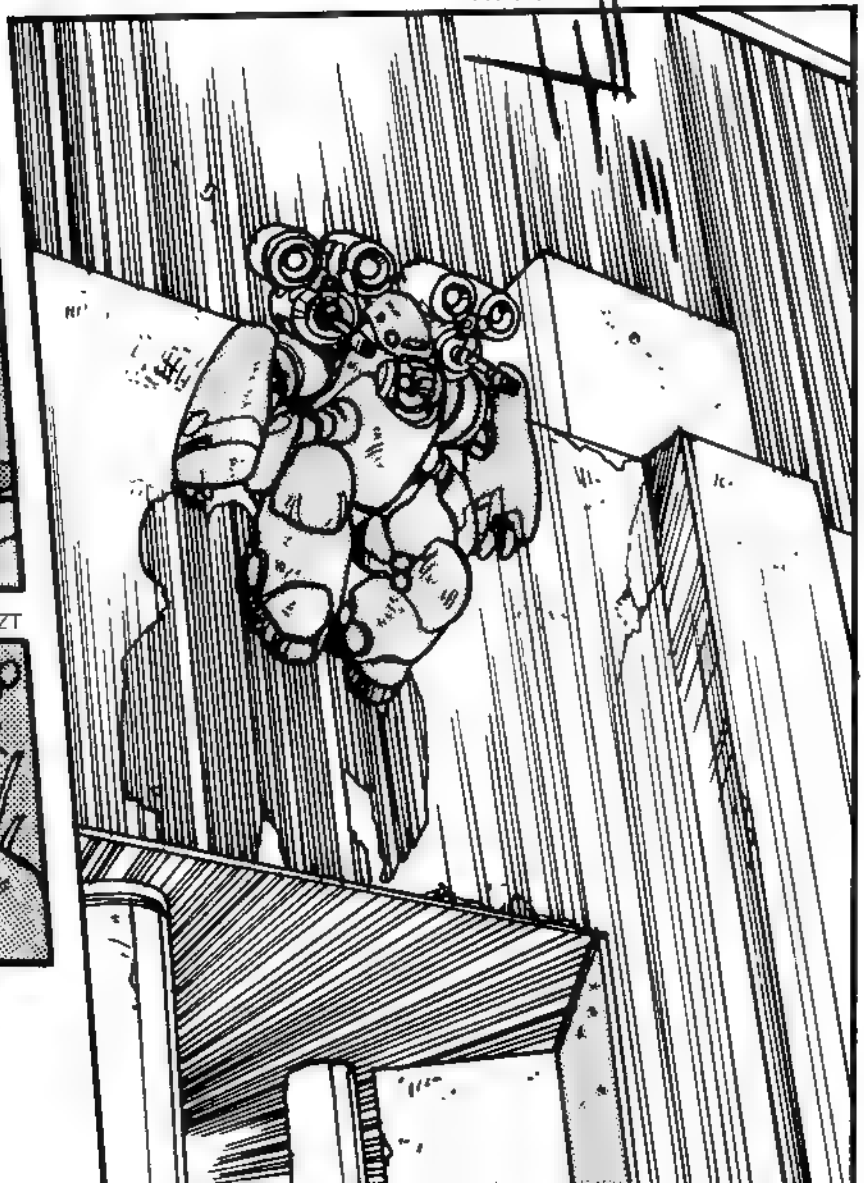
GYAAA

*FX WHSST

*FX WSHH



*FX WHDD

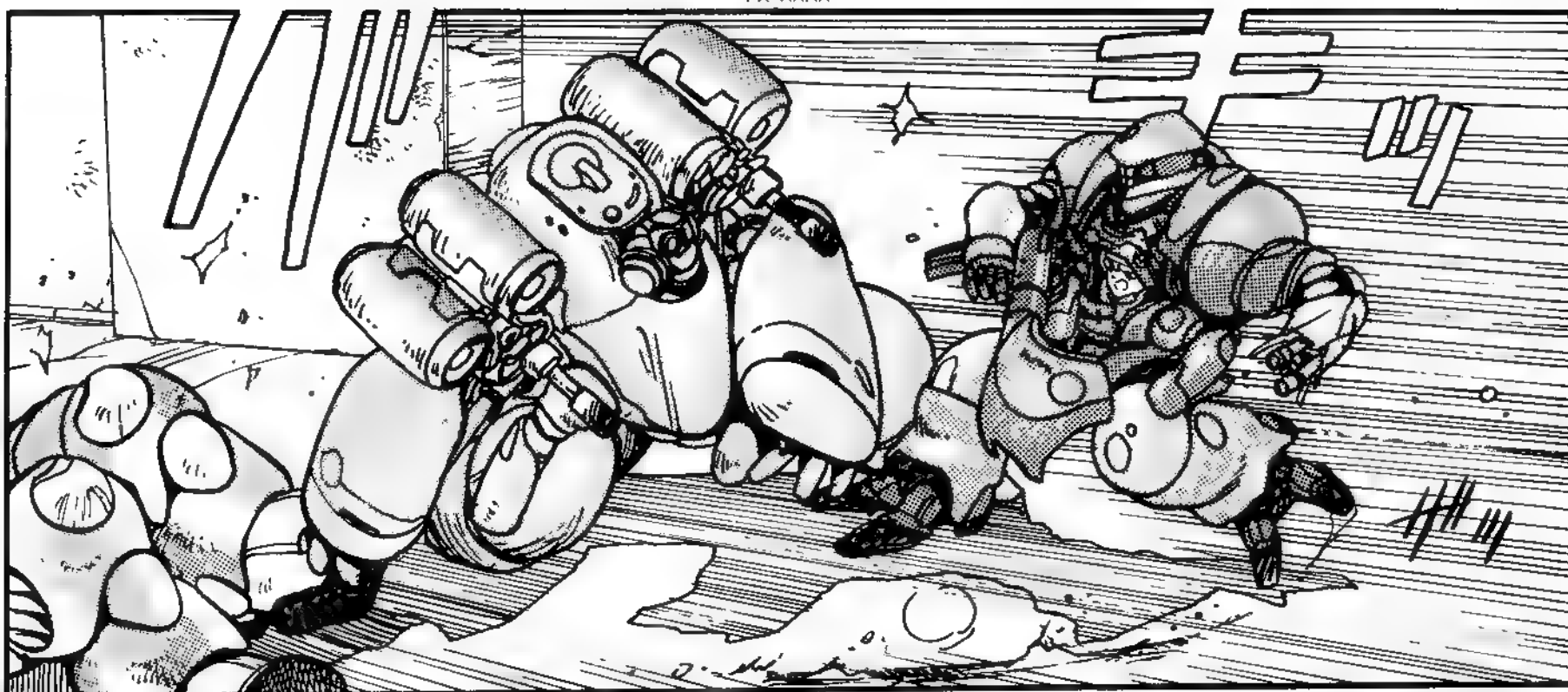


*FX BZZT FZZT



ゴトウ

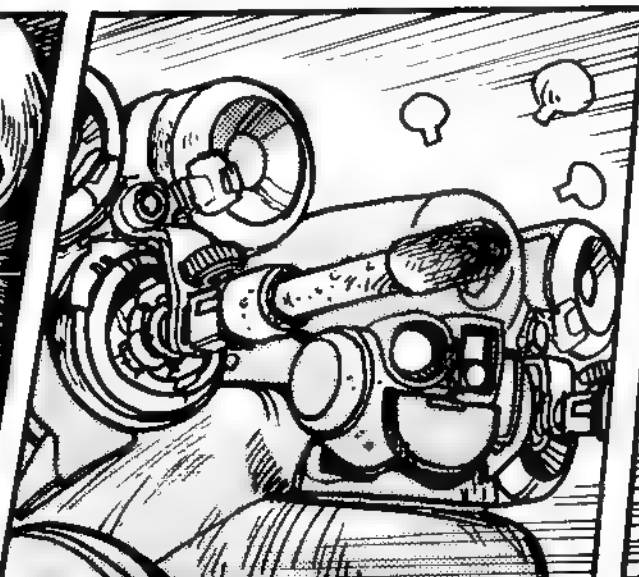
*FX KRAK



*FX WSHH



CAN'T...
GET
IT...
AROUND!



ALL
THAT
MASS...
I CAN'T
TRACK
HIM!!

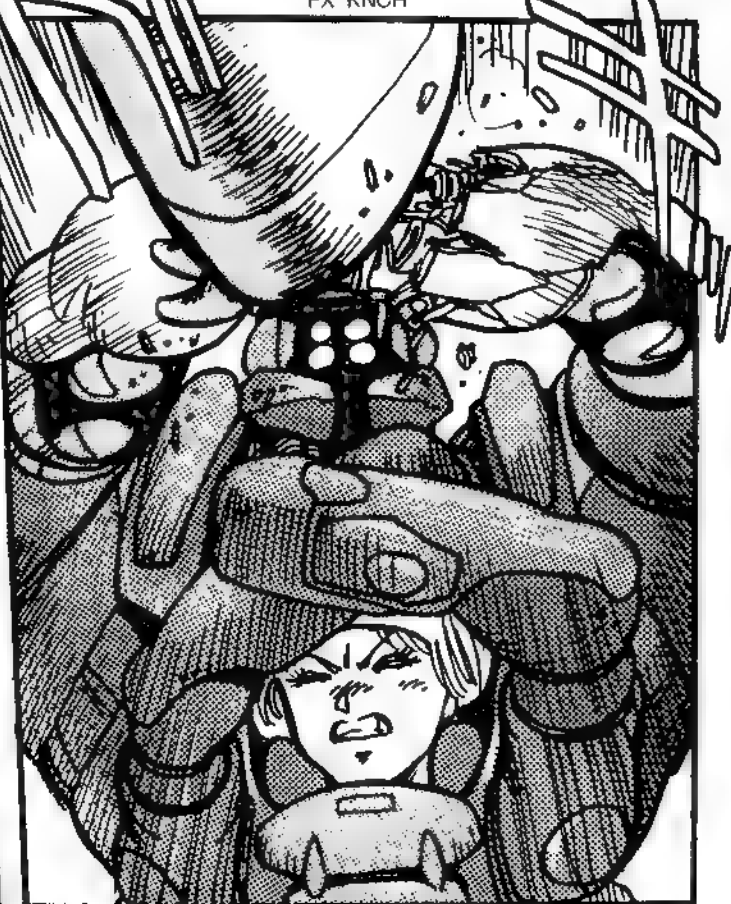
*FX WMPP



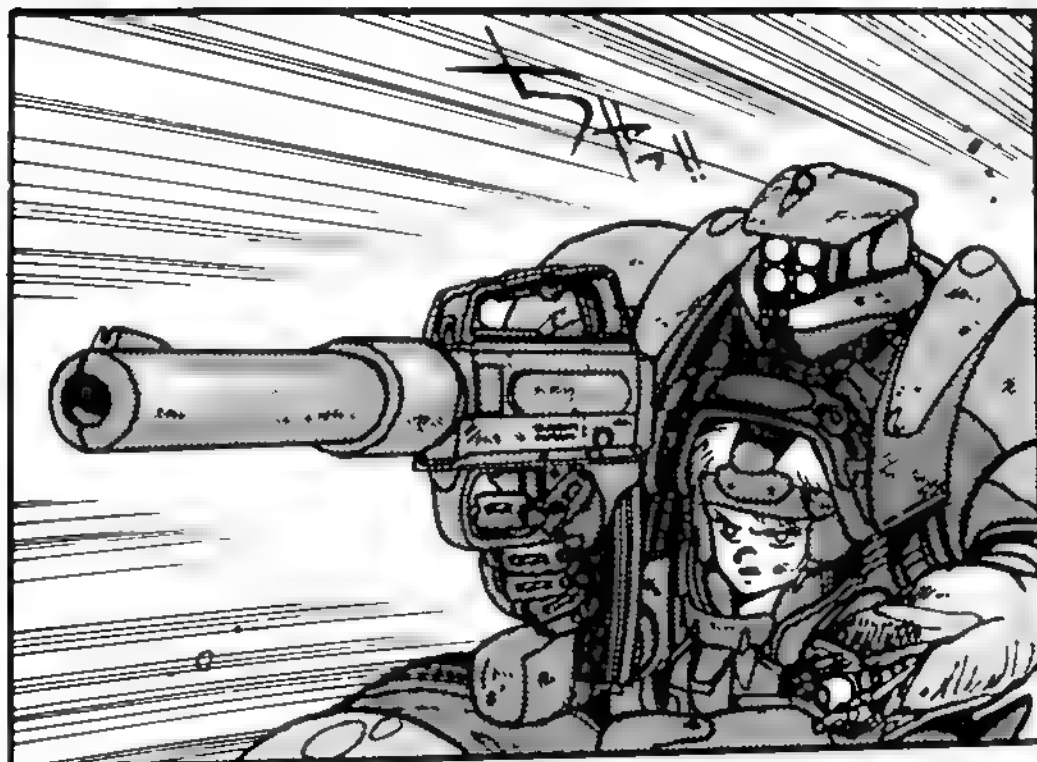
*FX SKRAK



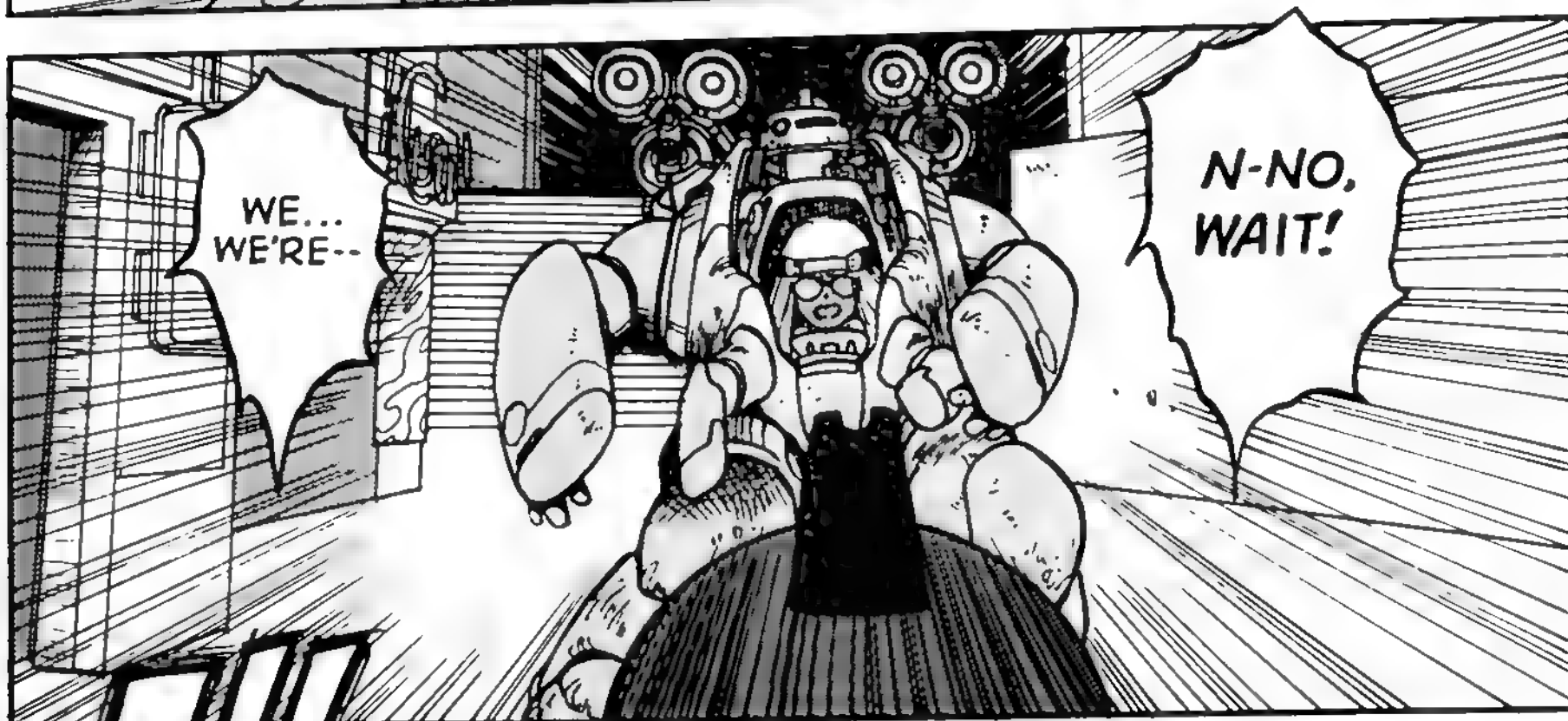
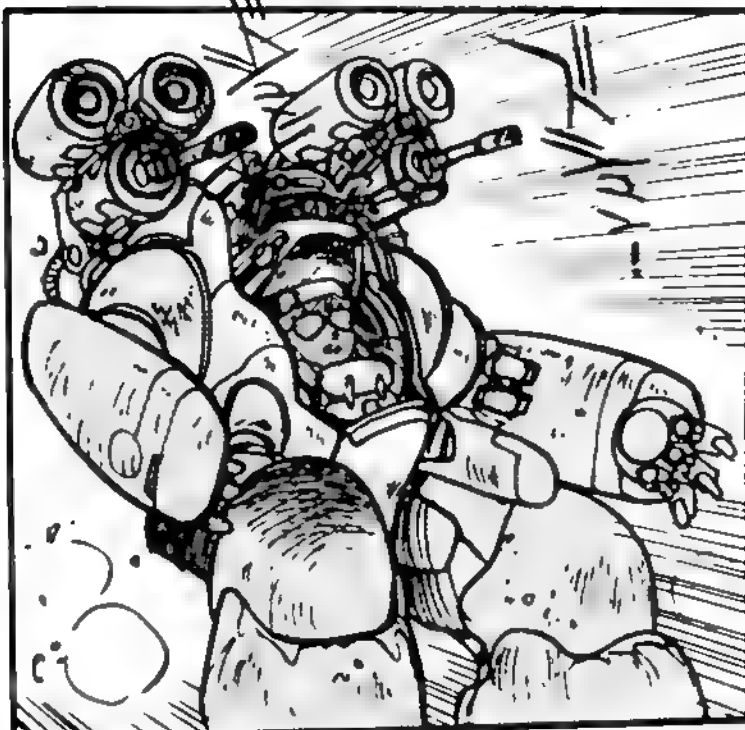
*FX KNCH



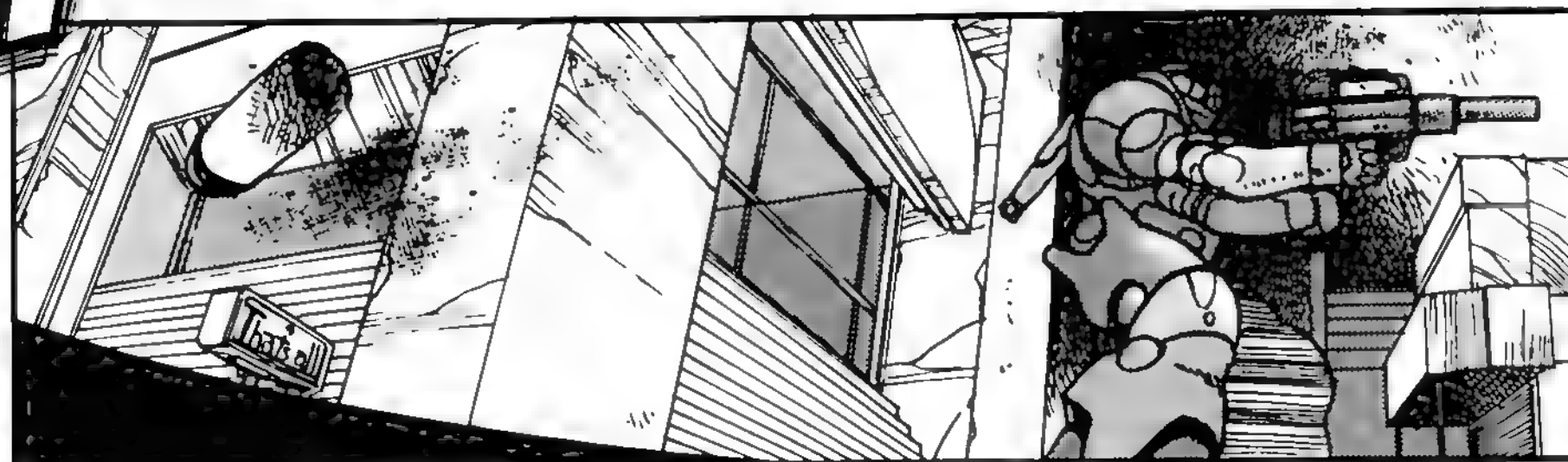
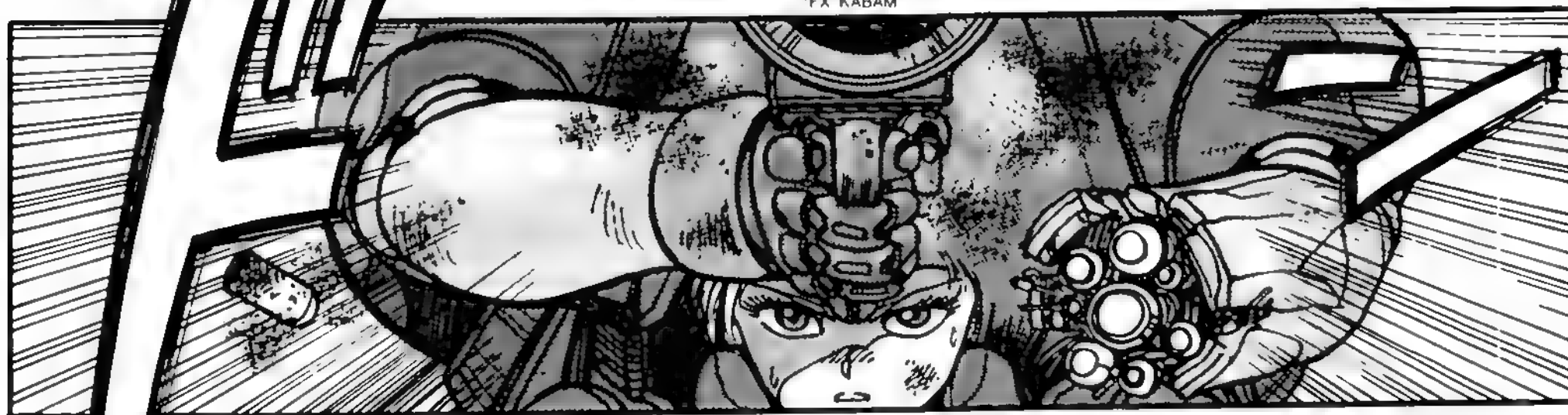
*FX CHAK

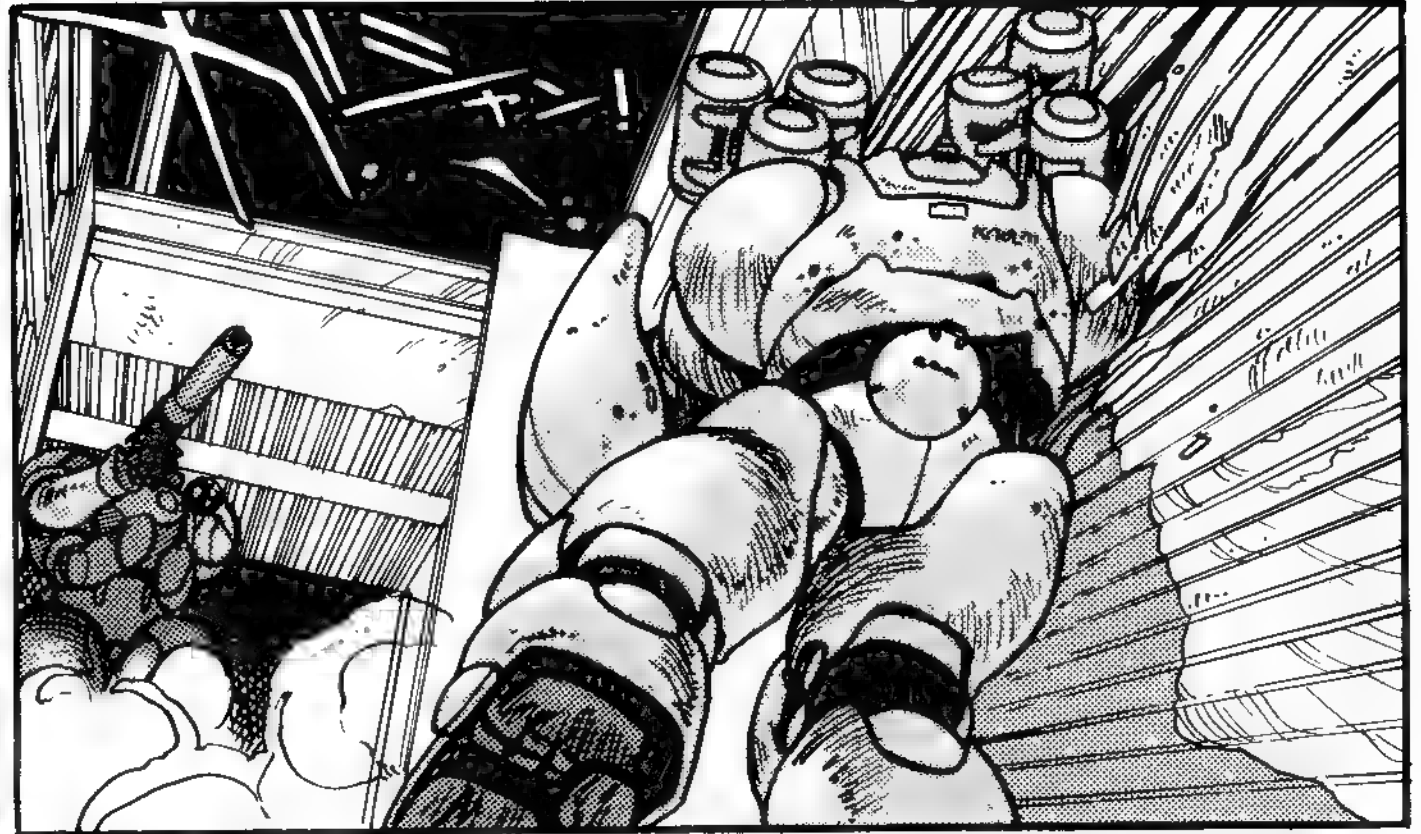


*FX KCHAK KCHAK

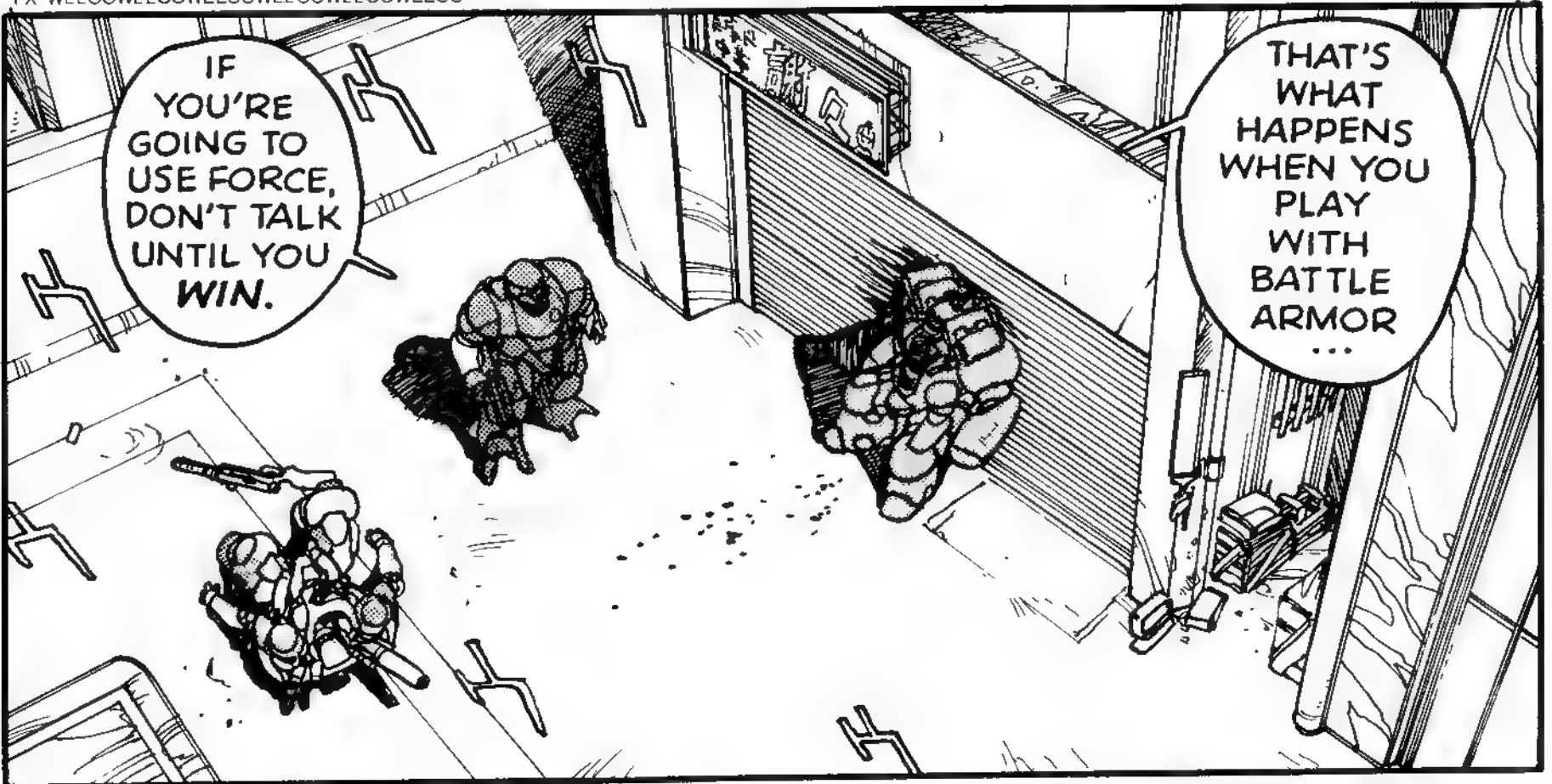


*FX KABAM

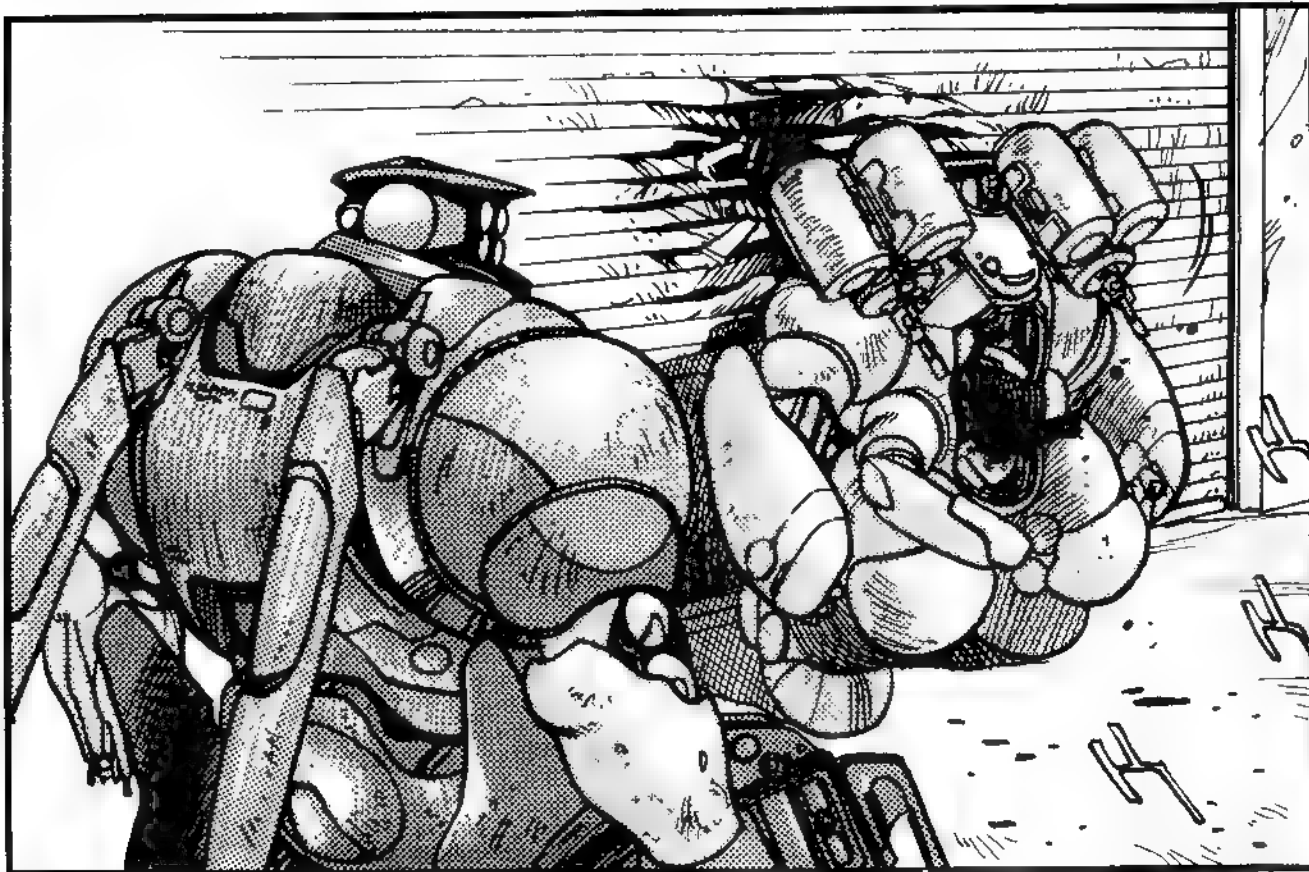




*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOO



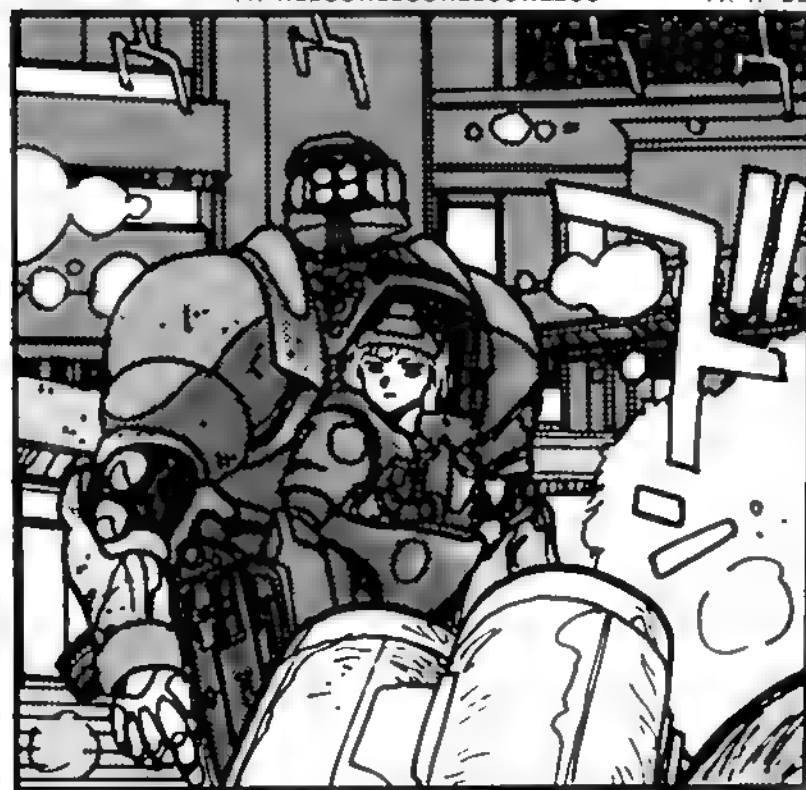
*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOO



*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOO

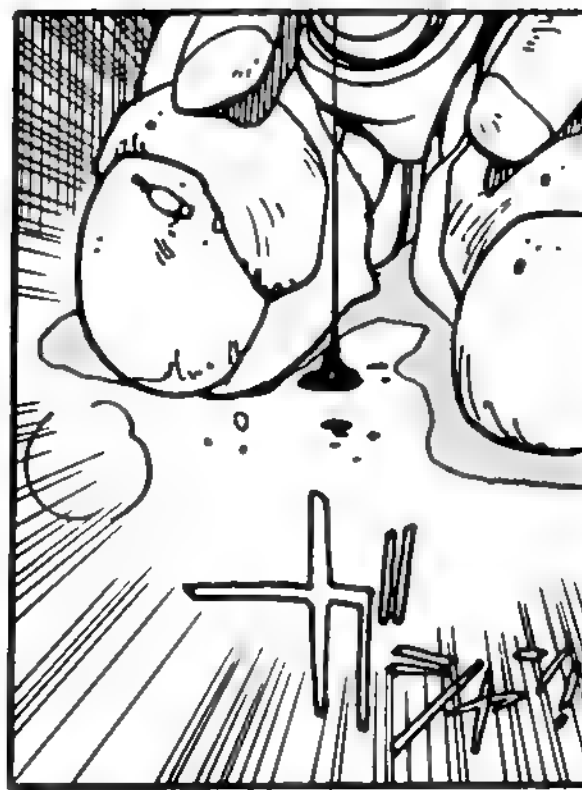


FX *WEEEOOWEEEO

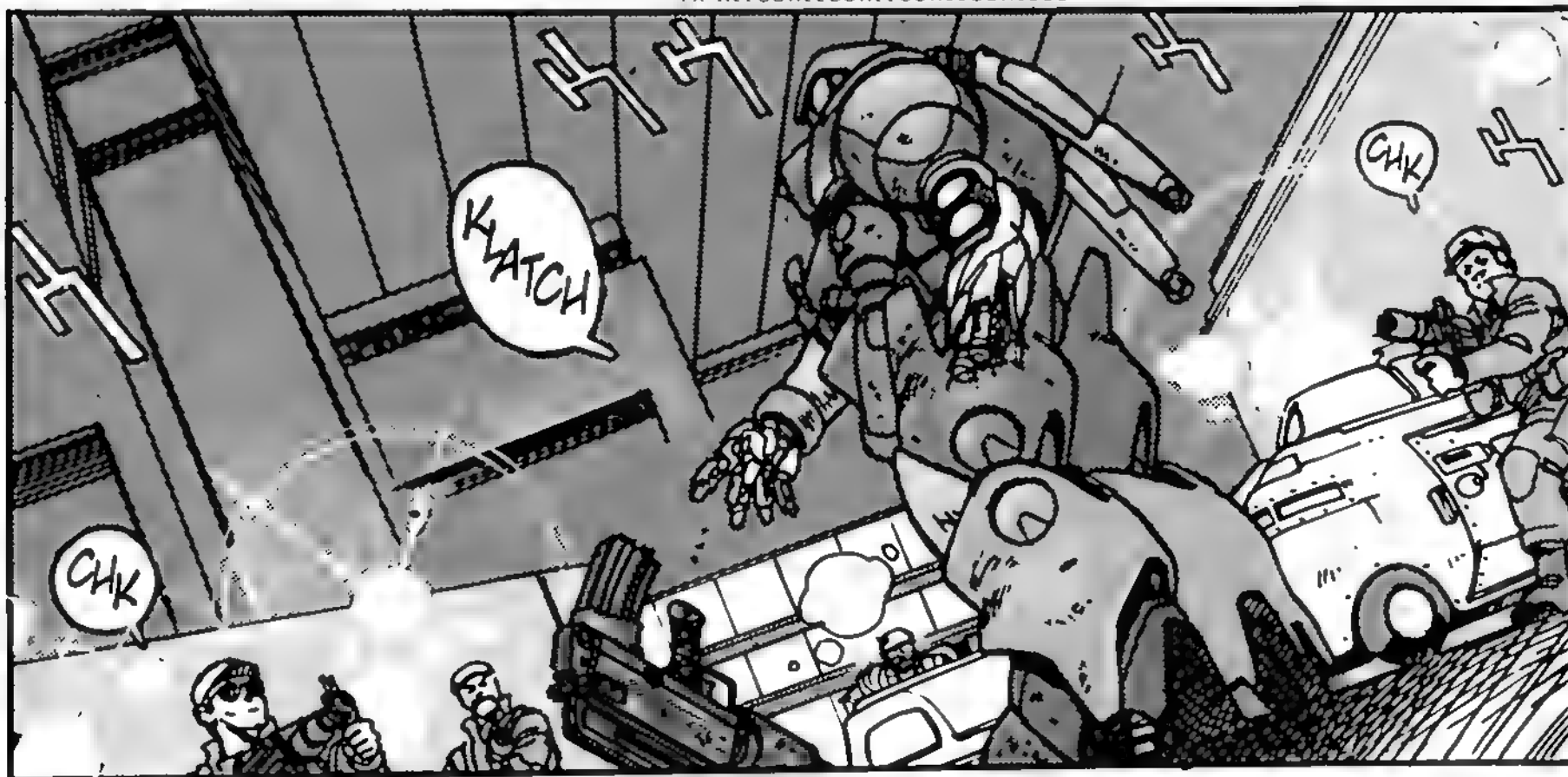


*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEO

*FX WHDD

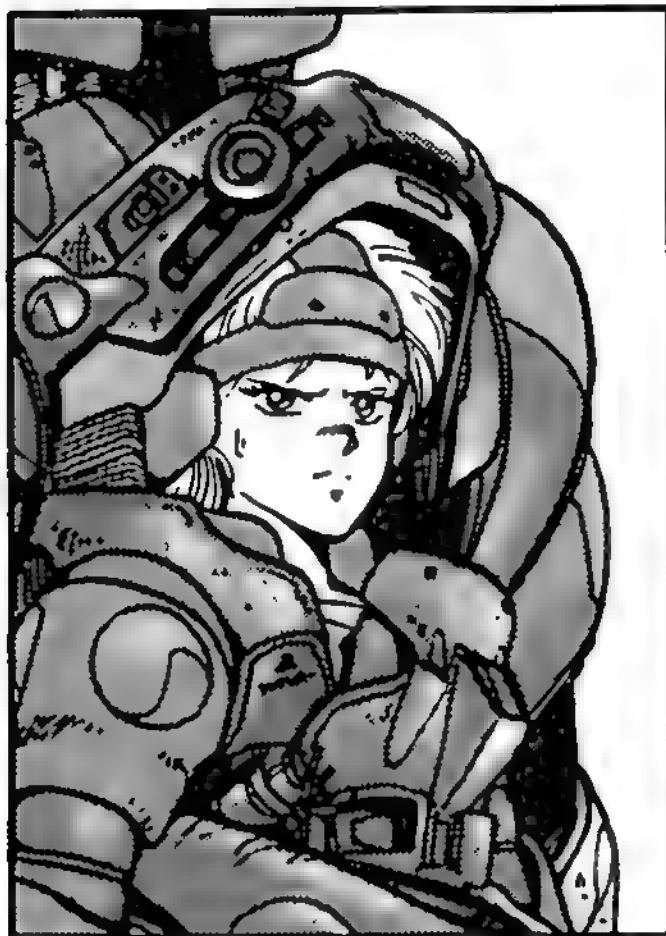


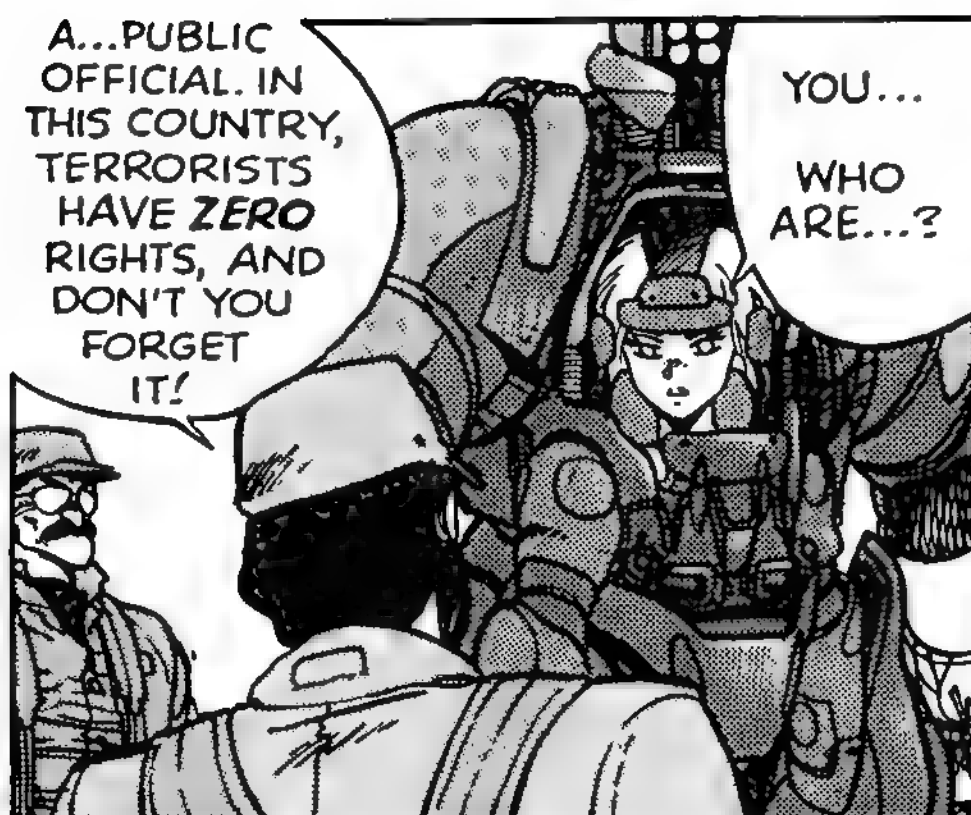
*FX KRANG



*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEO

*FX WEEEOOWEEEOOWEEEO





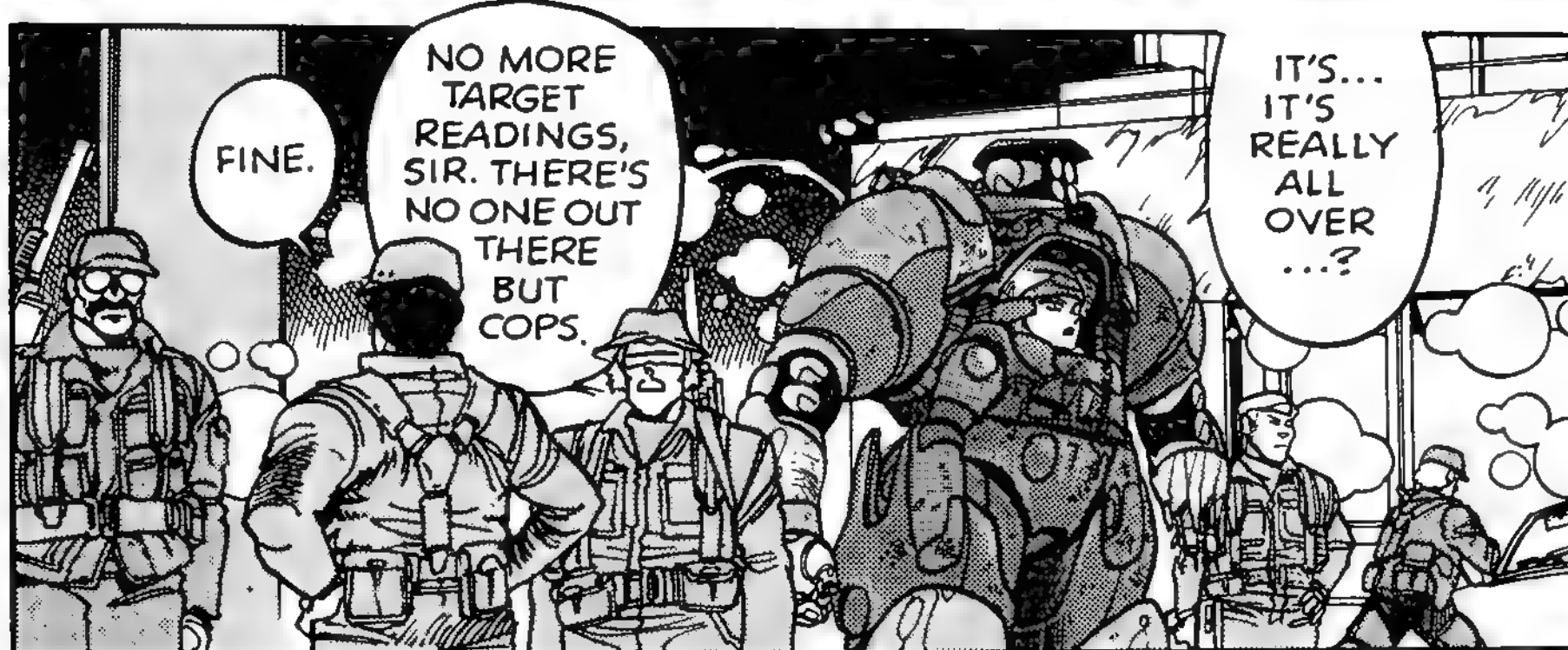
A...PUBLIC
OFFICIAL. IN
THIS COUNTRY,
TERRORISTS
HAVE **ZERO**
RIGHTS, AND
DON'T YOU
FORGET
IT!

YOU...
WHO
ARE...?



IF THEY
PICK
HER
OFF,
WE'LL
NEVER
GET THE
WHOLE
STORY.

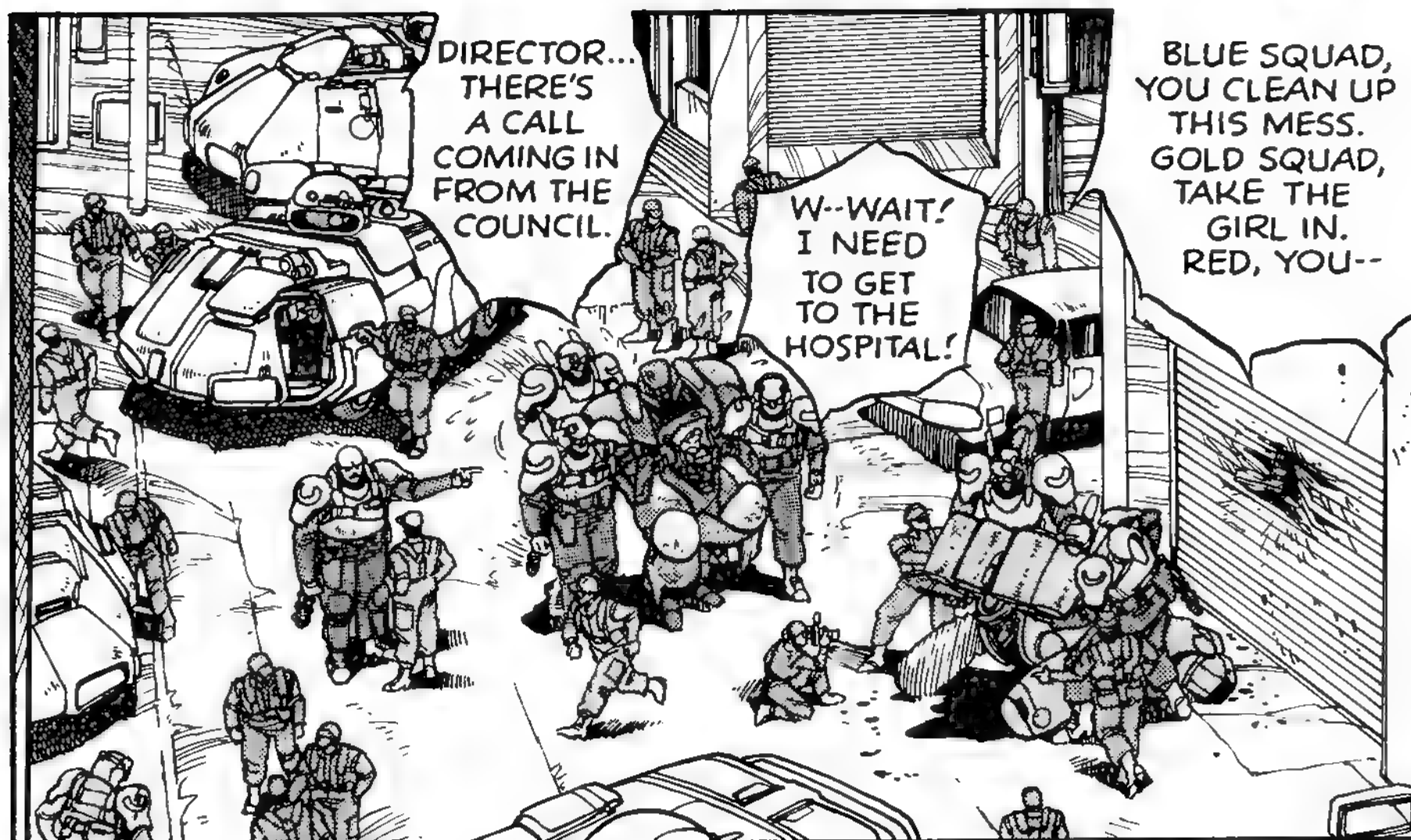
STAKE
OUT THE
AREA
AND
GUARD
THE
GIRL.



FINE.

NO MORE
TARGET
READINGS,
SIR. THERE'S
NO ONE OUT
THERE
BUT COPS.

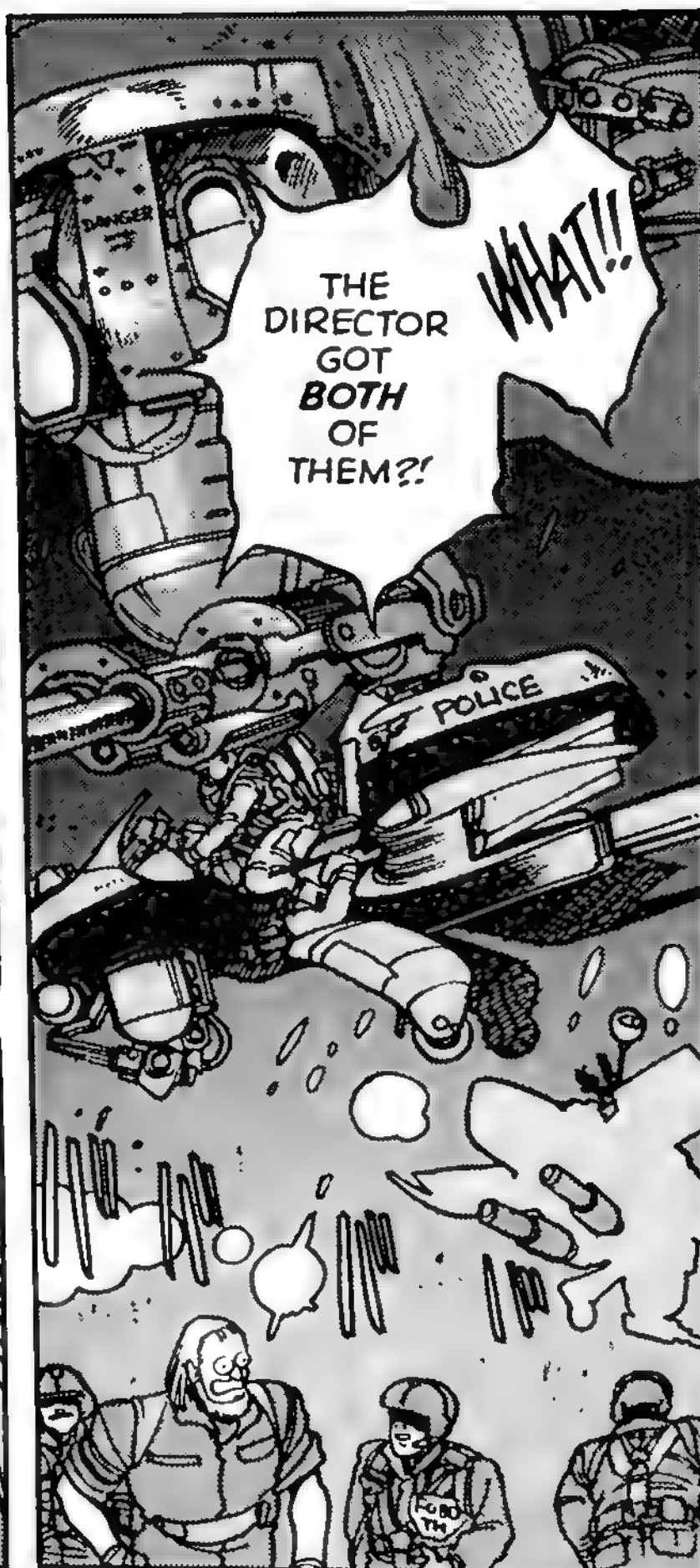
IT'S...
IT'S
REALLY
ALL
OVER
...?

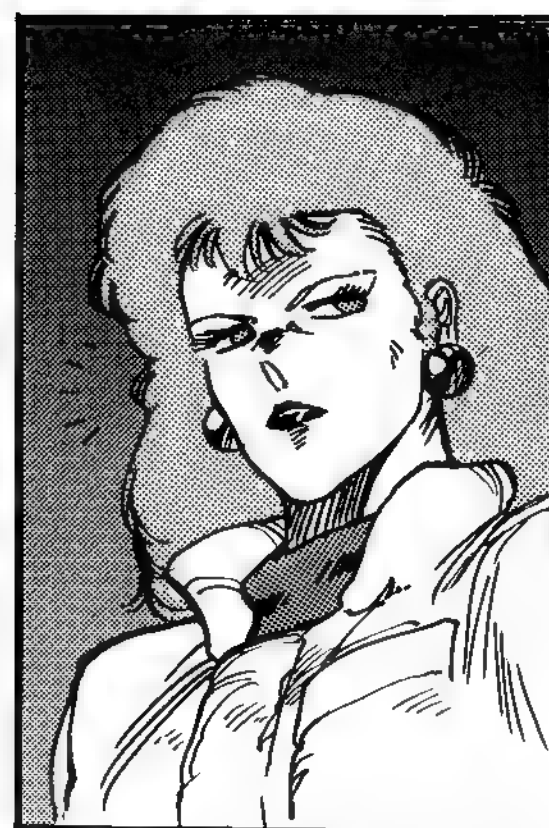
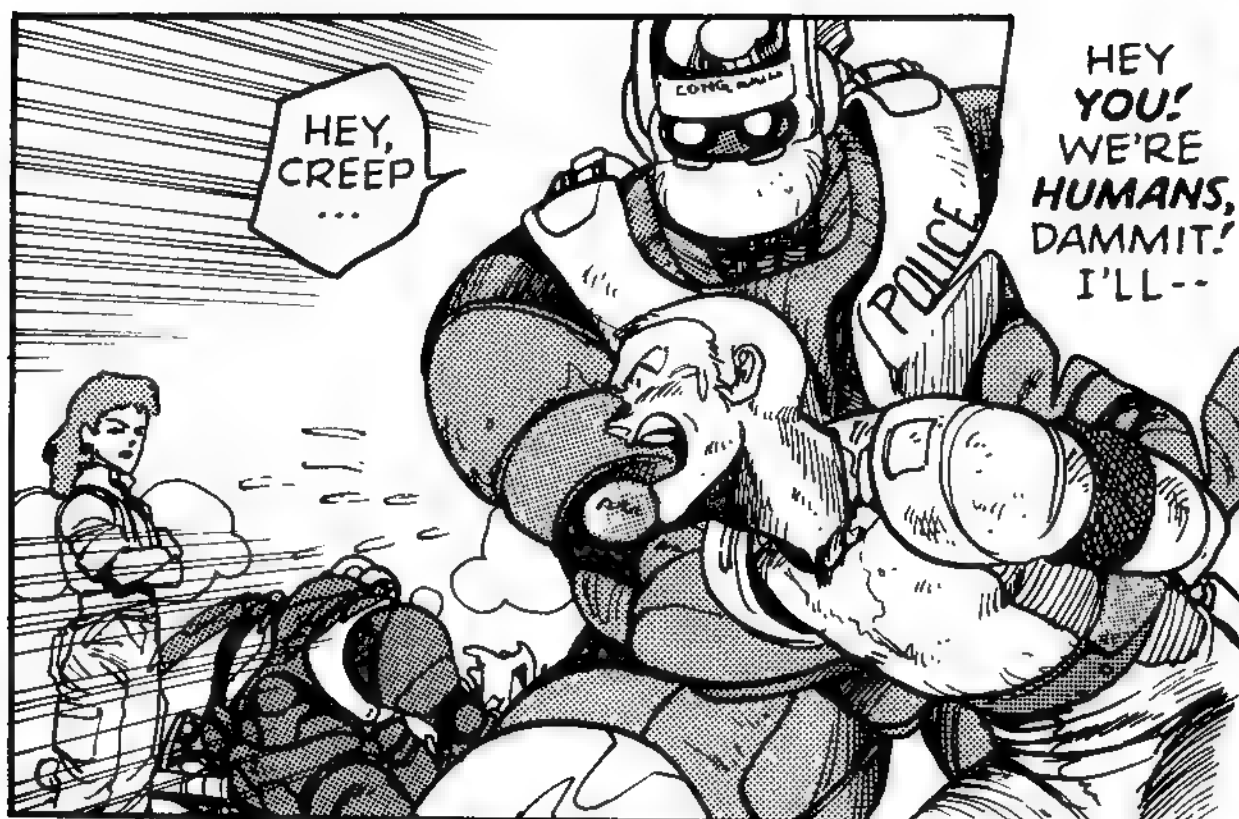


DIRECTOR...
THERE'S
A CALL
COMING IN
FROM THE
COUNCIL.

W--WAIT!
I NEED
TO GET
TO THE
HOSPITAL!

BLUE SQUAD,
YOU CLEAN UP
THIS MESS.
GOLD SQUAD,
TAKE THE
GIRL IN.
RED, YOU--

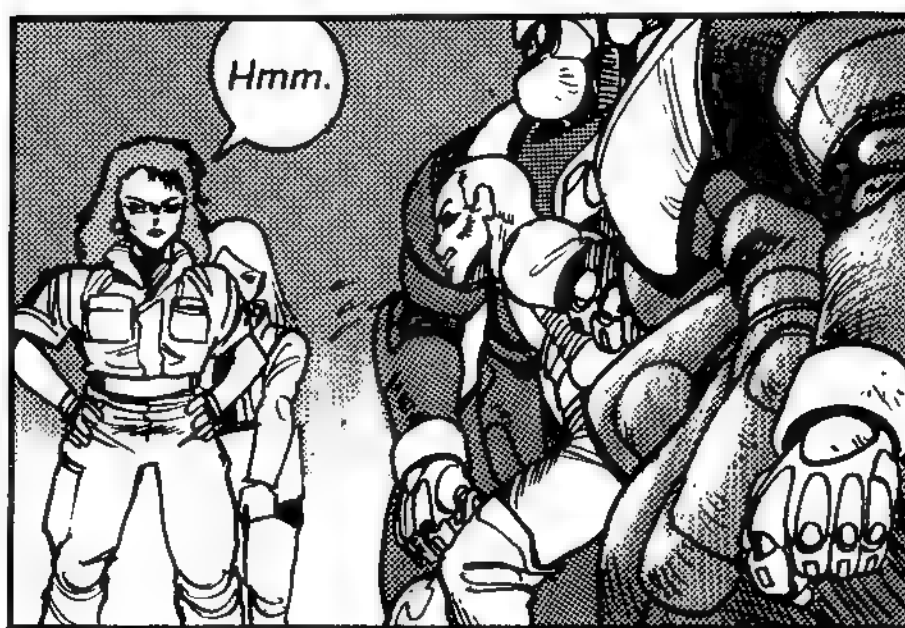


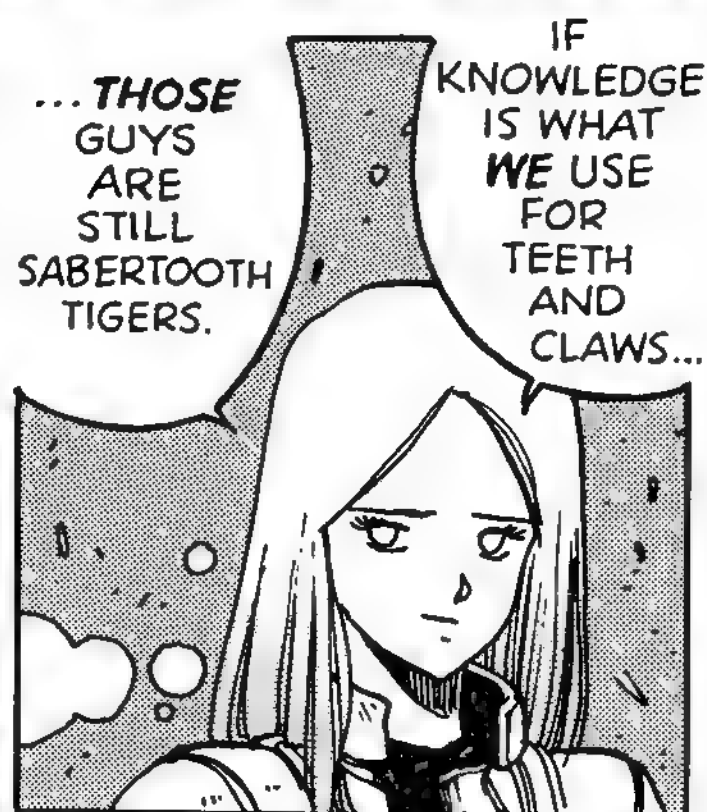
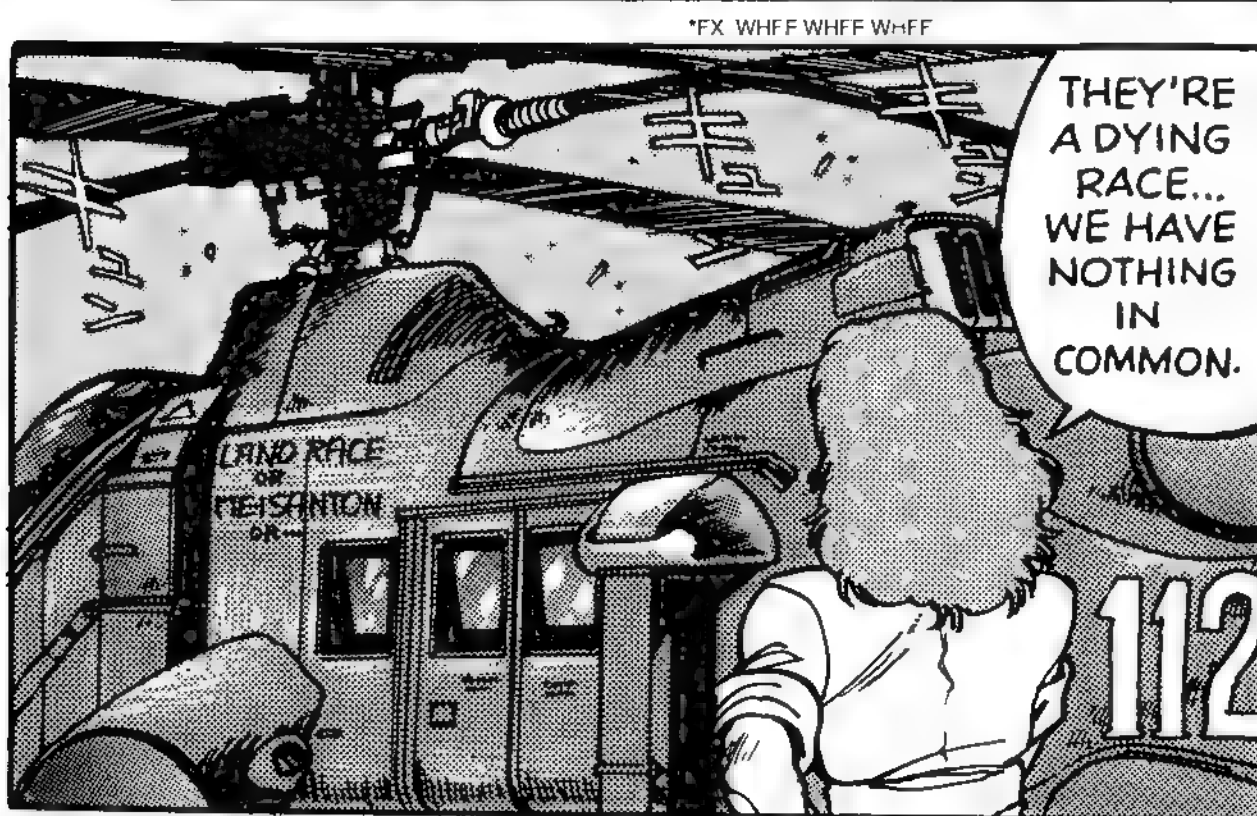
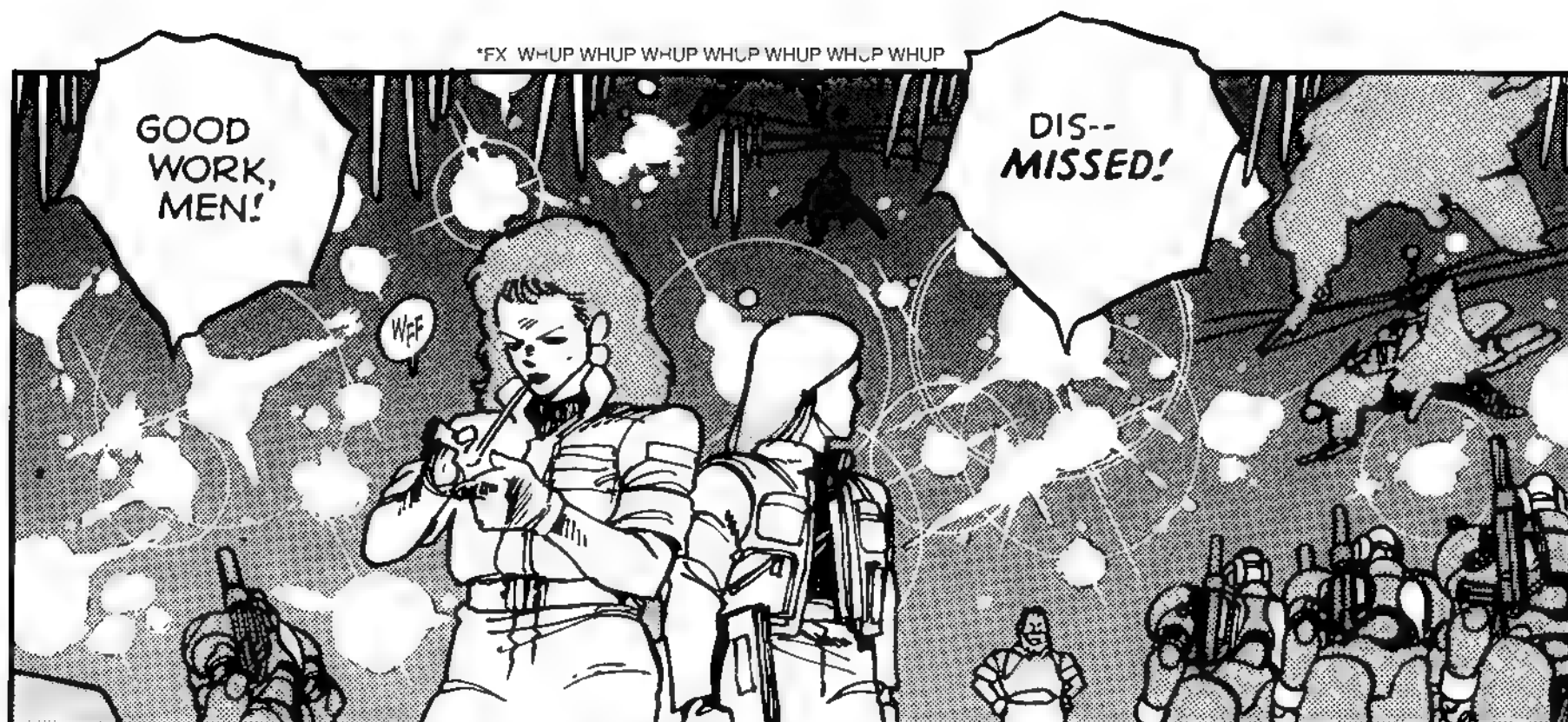


*FX WHAK WHAK WHAK



*FX WHDD

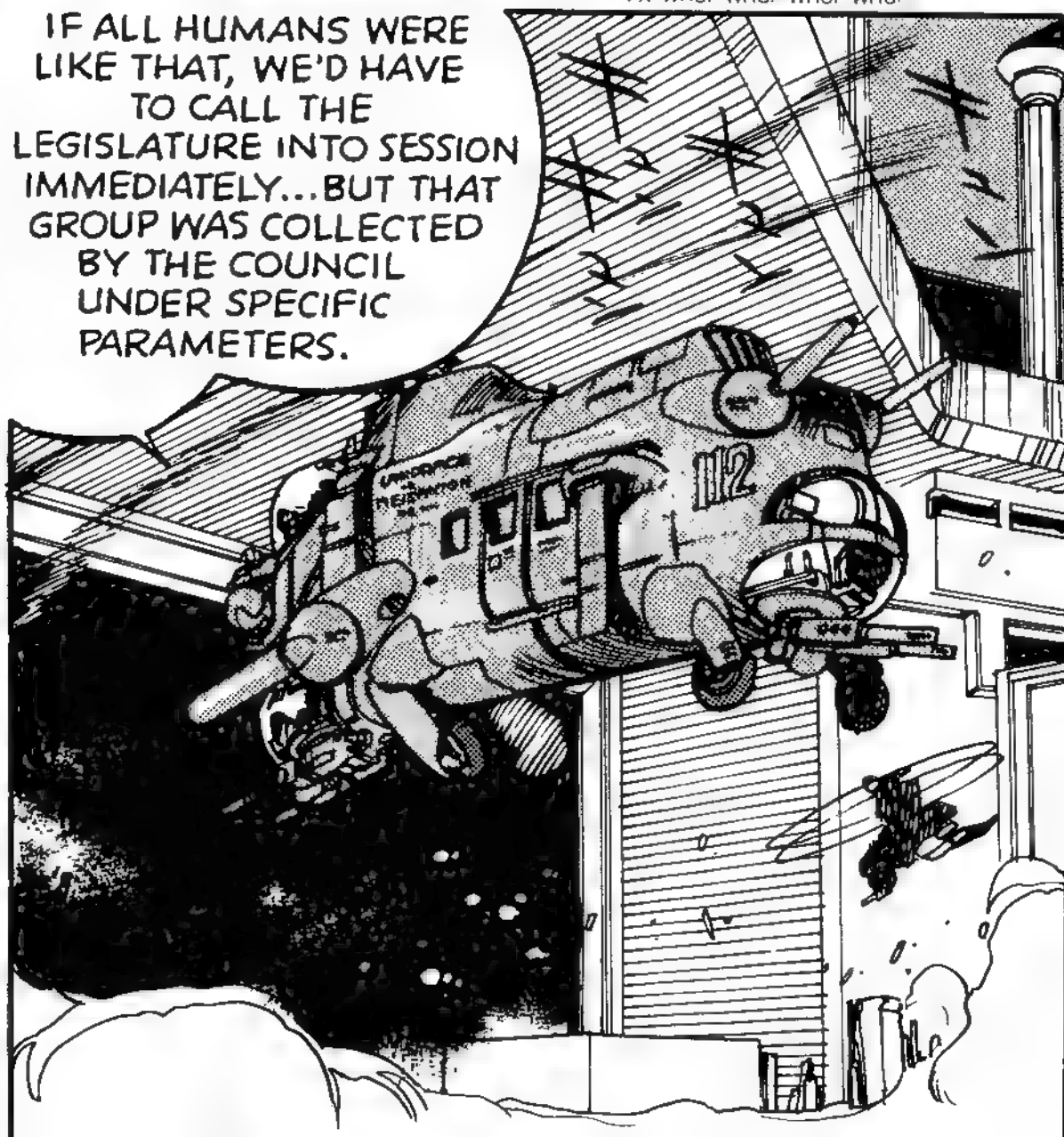
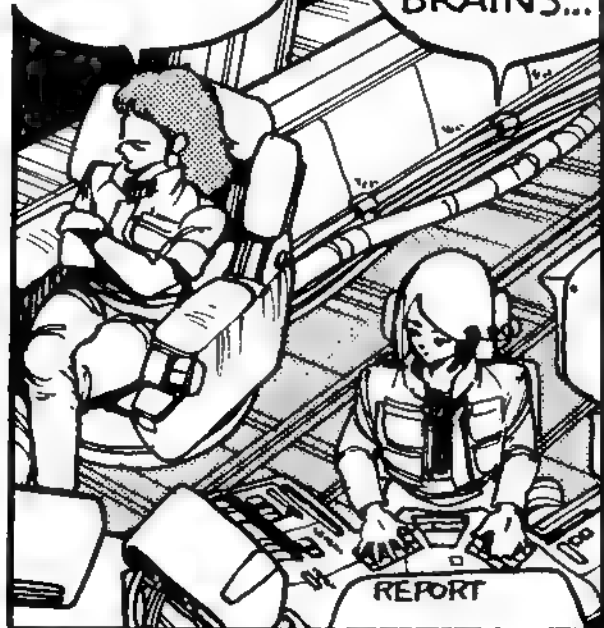




NO, I DOUBT YOU'D FIND ANYTHING. AND EVEN IF WE DID, IT'S TO OUR LEGAL ADVANTAGE TO GO THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE.

AUTOPSIES MIGHT SHOW IF THERE'S BEEN ANY TAMPERING WITH THEIR BRAINS...

IF ALL HUMANS WERE LIKE THAT, WE'D HAVE TO CALL THE LEGISLATURE INTO SESSION IMMEDIATELY...BUT THAT GROUP WAS COLLECTED BY THE COUNCIL UNDER SPECIFIC PARAMETERS.



BESIDES,
THEY
COULDN'T HAVE
SMUGGLED IN
THAT MUCH
FIREPOWER.
NO, I'M SURE
THE COUNCIL'S
BEHIND IT
ALL.

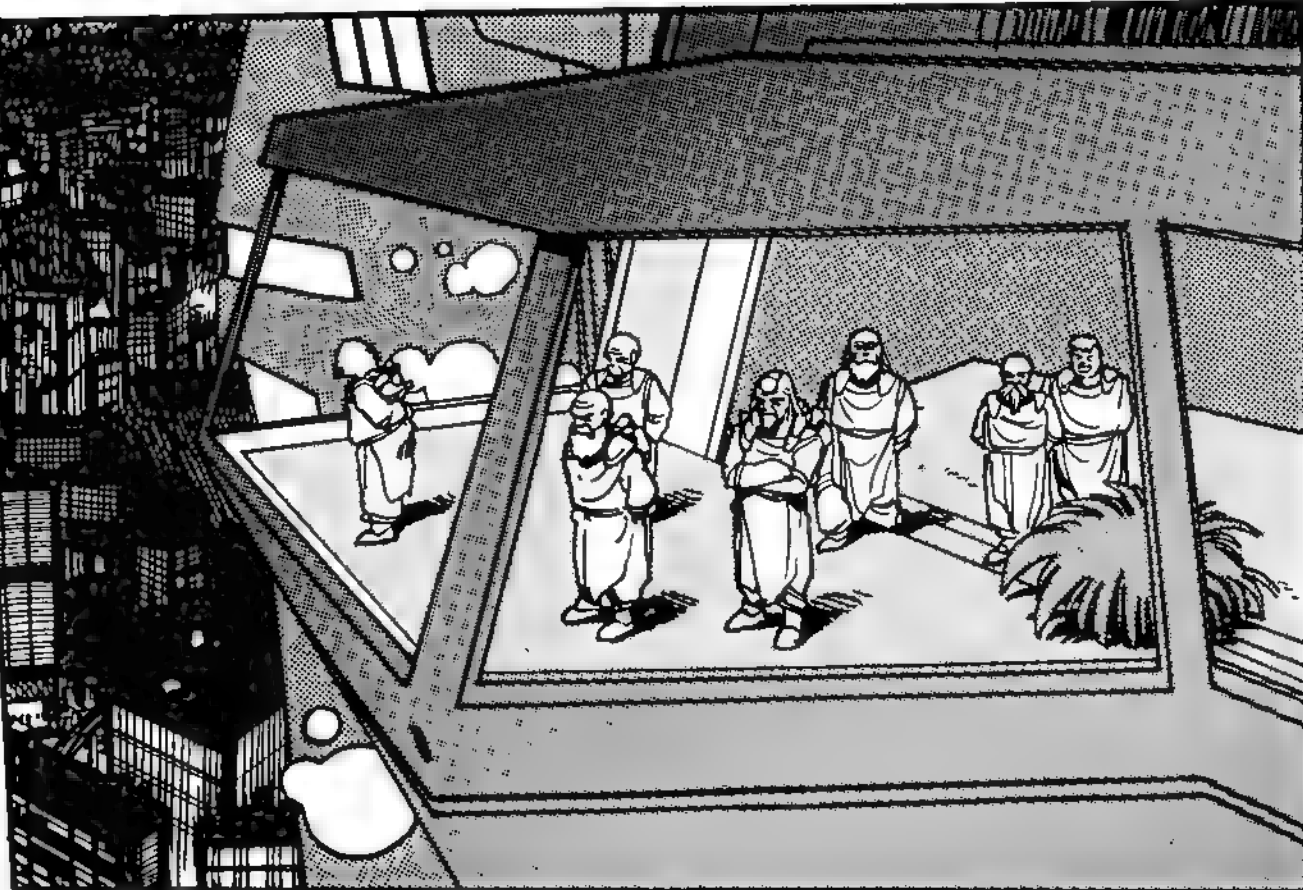
NONE OF THE
UNSUPERVISED
COUNTRIES HAVE
THOSE KINDS OF
RESOURCES.
THEY NEED OUR
ASSISTANCE TO
SURVIVE.

AT LEAST IT'S
CLEAR THEY'RE
GUERRILLAS.
COULD IT BE
SOME DEAL WITH
ONE OF THE OLD
SUPERPOWERS?
LOOKING
FOR MORE
CONGENIAL
MASTERS...?

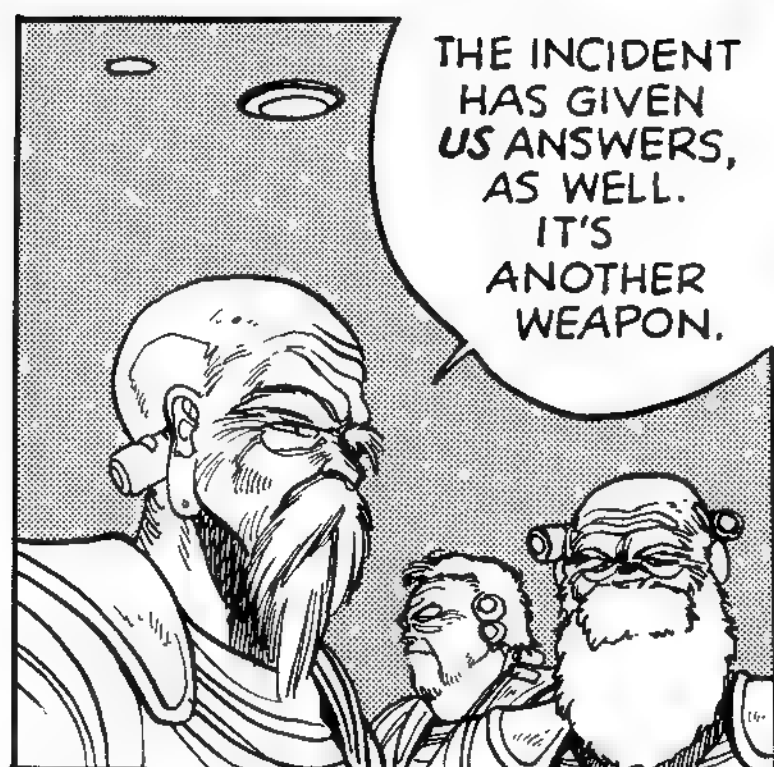
THE
REAL
FIGHT
COMES
LATER.

AT LEAST NOW
WE'LL BE
ALLOWED TO
PUT THOSE
GUINEA PIGS
UNDER
SURVEILLANCE.

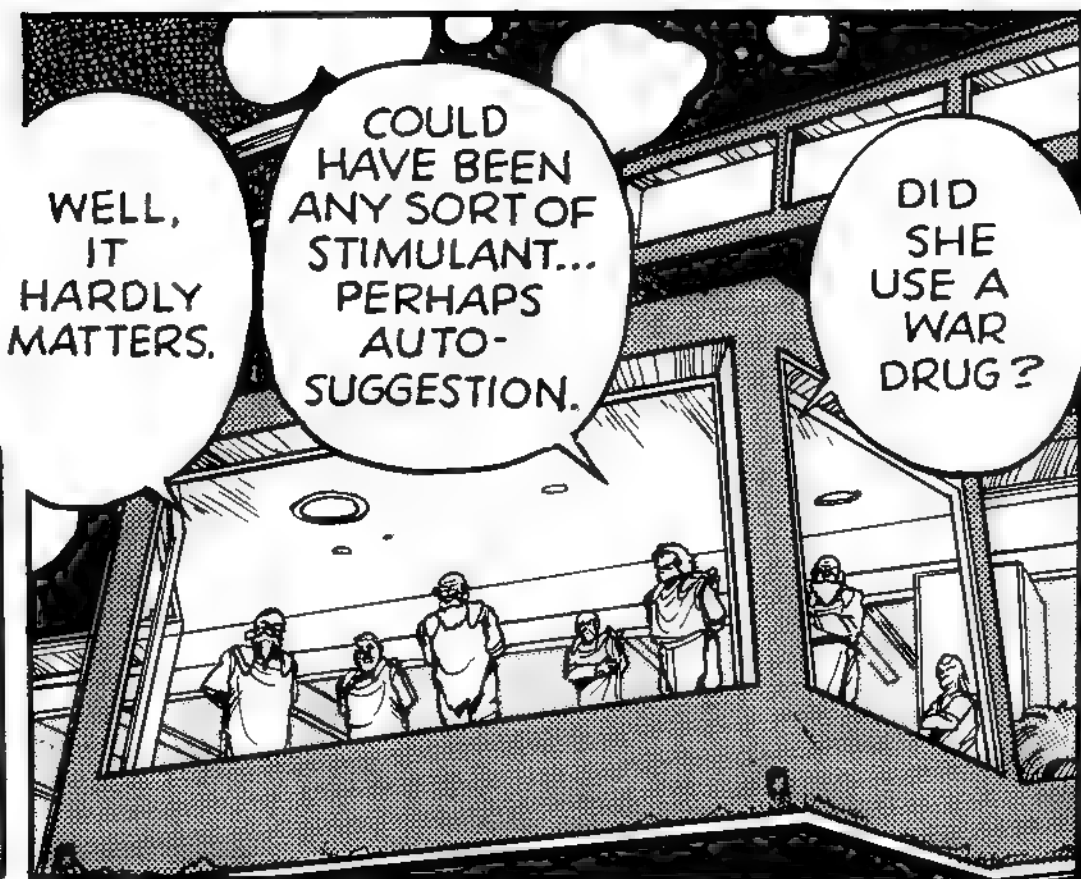
THAT INCIDENT...
WAS IT ATHENA'S
I IMAGINE WORK?
SHE WAS
CURIOUS
ABOUT THEIR
SUBCONSCIOUS,
TOO. FOR HER
OWN REASONS.



LOOKS
LIKE THE
DEBATE IS
FINALLY
OVER.



THE INCIDENT
HAS GIVEN
US ANSWERS,
AS WELL.
IT'S
ANOTHER
WEAPON.



WELL,
IT
HARDLY
MATTERS.

COULD
HAVE BEEN
ANY SORT OF
STIMULANT...
PERHAPS
AUTO-
SUGGESTION.

DID
SHE
USE A
WAR
DRUG?

FROM
THE WAY
THINGS WENT
TODAY, WE'LL
HAVE TO
EXPECT A
STRONG
BACKLASH
FROM
AEGIS.

WE'RE *THEIR*
CHILDREN, MORE
LIKE IT, AND
WE'RE PLANNING
TO MURDER
THEM IN
THEIR
SLEEP.

I MUST SAY,
I FEEL AS IF
I'VE SENT MY
ONLY CHILD OFF
ON A LONG
JOURNEY. IMAGINE
--TEARING DOWN
THE BARRIERS
BETWEEN US
AND THE
HUMANS...

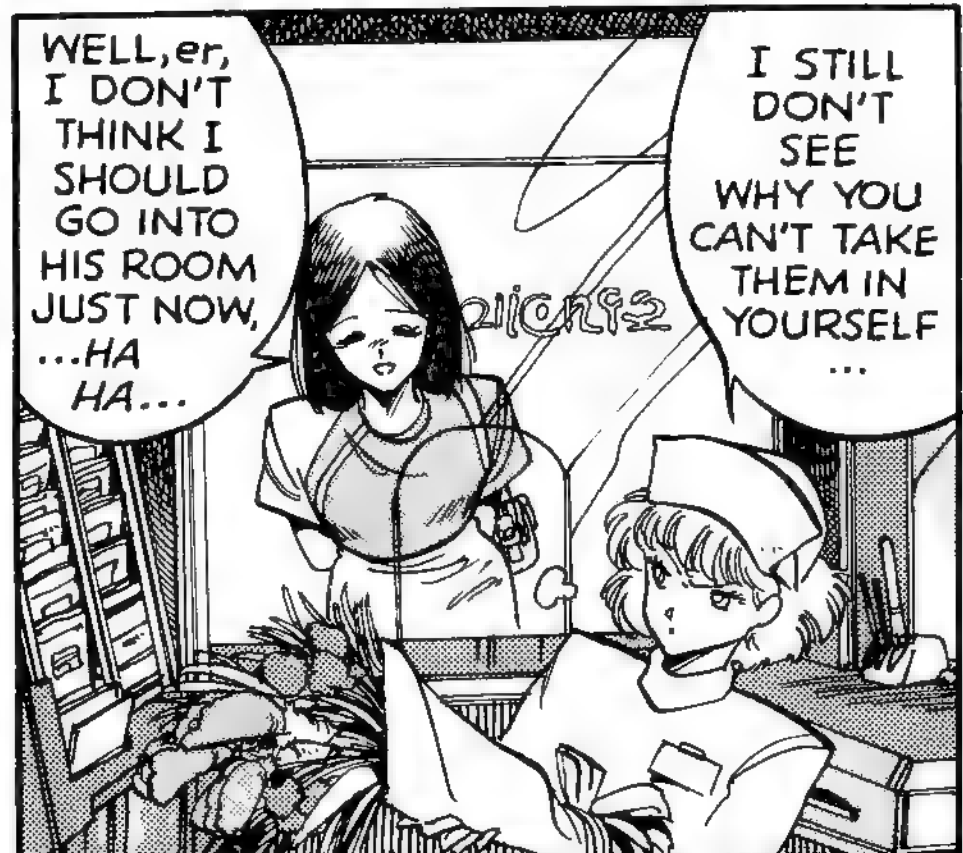
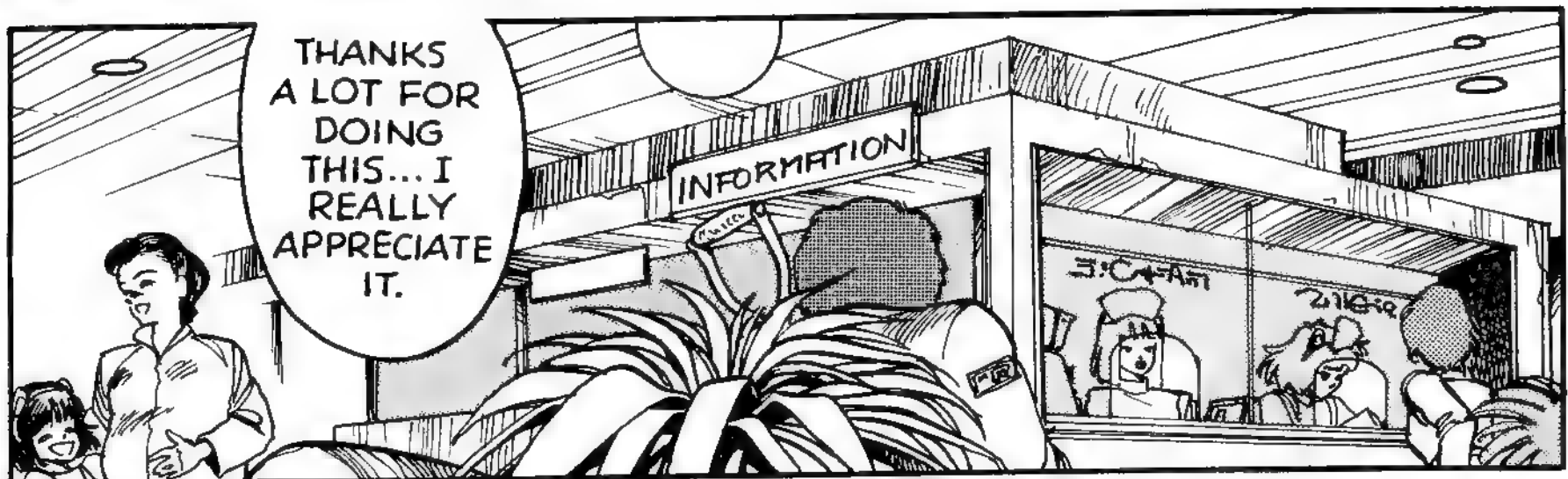
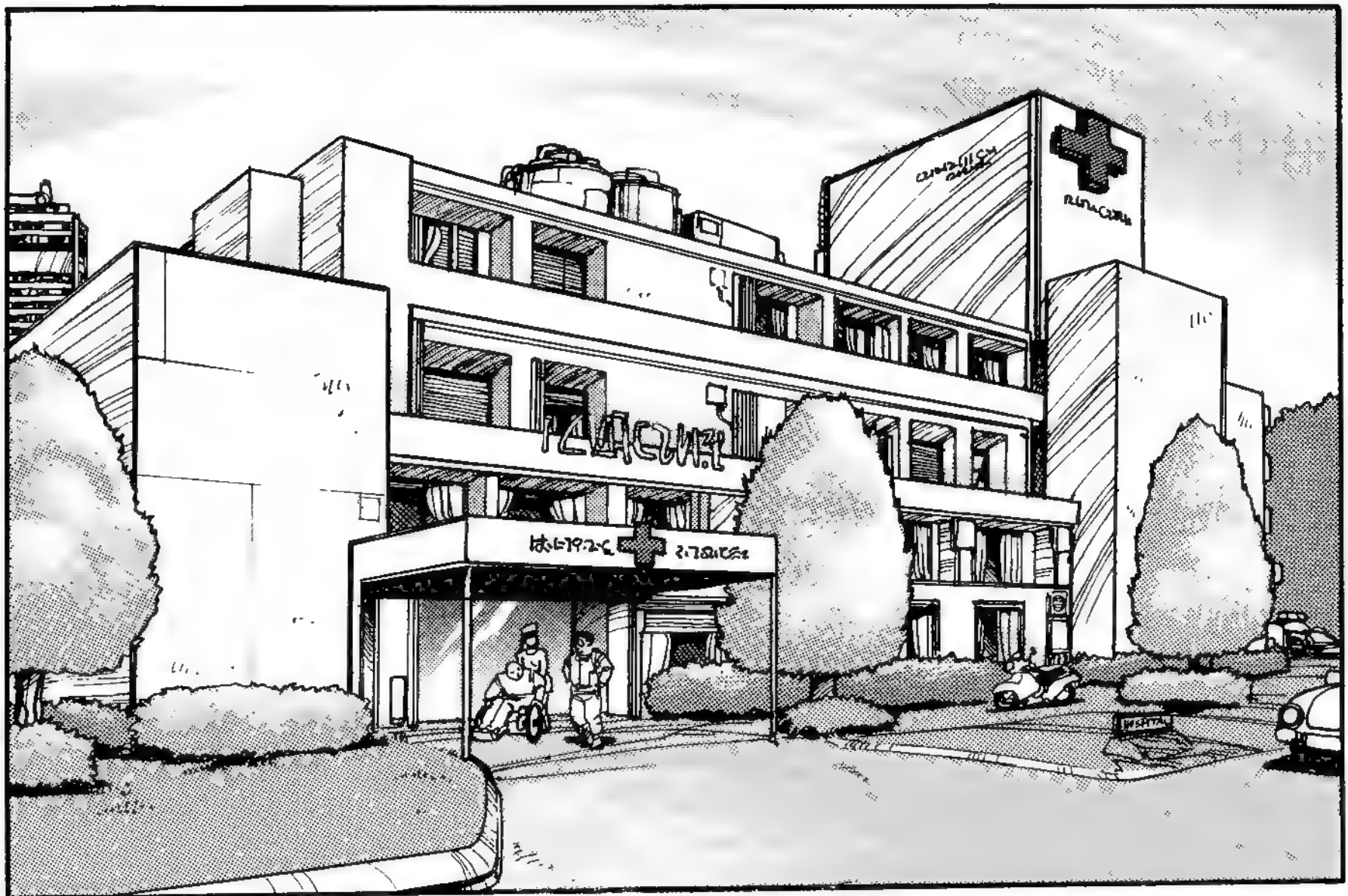


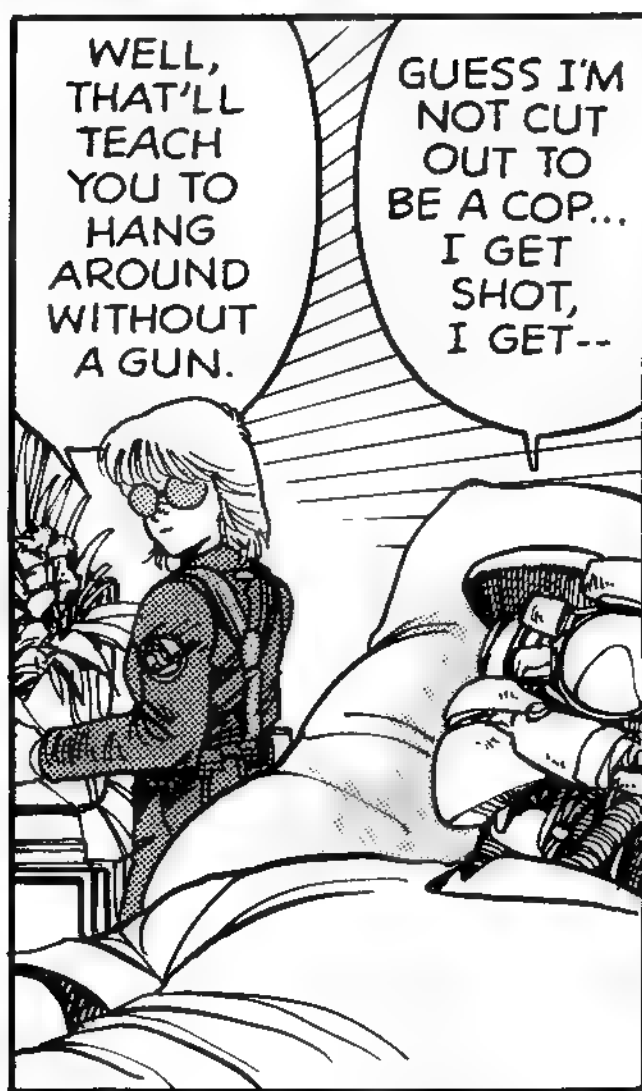
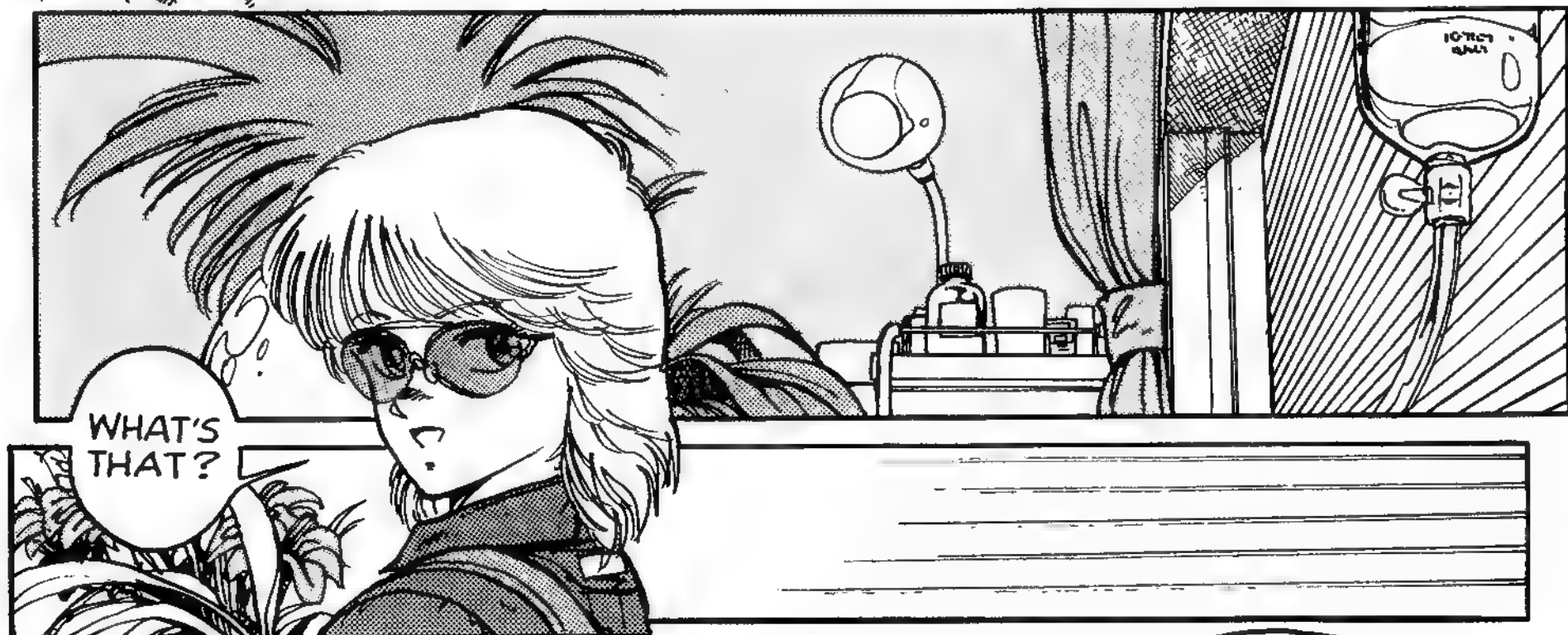
AND IT WOULD
SEEM THERE
ARE RATHER
FEWER OF
THEM, NOW...

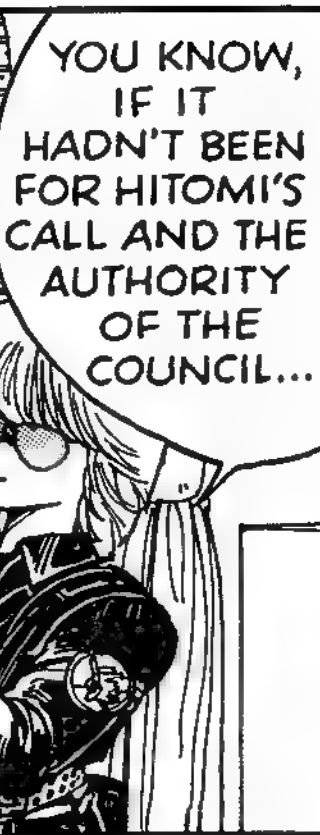
WE'LL
REALLY
NEED
HITOMI'S
PEOPLE
THEN--

CONFOUND
IT! NOT UNTIL
THEY DELIVER
MY PARTS
FIRST!

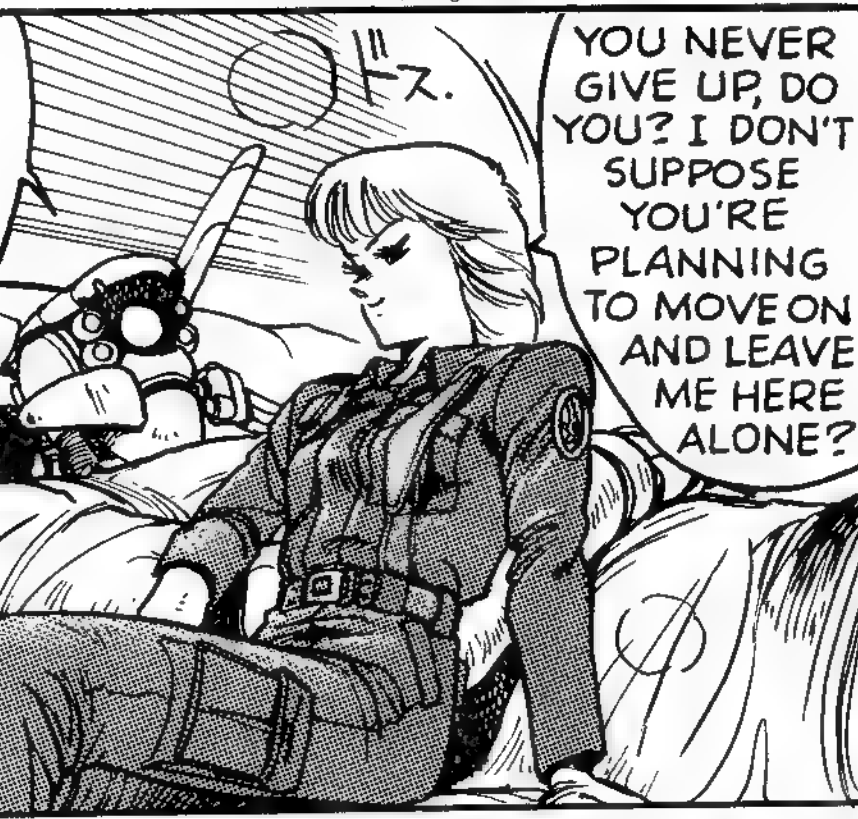
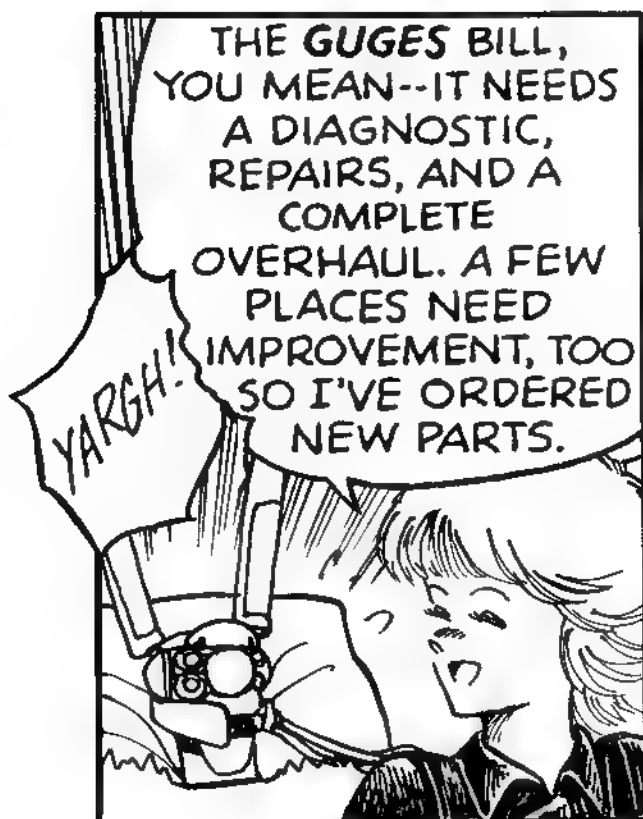
EXCUSE
ME, SIR, BUT ALL
THE CHIP MAKERS
ARE CALLING IN
QUOTATIONS ON
THE REPLACEMENT
PARTS FOR
GAIA...



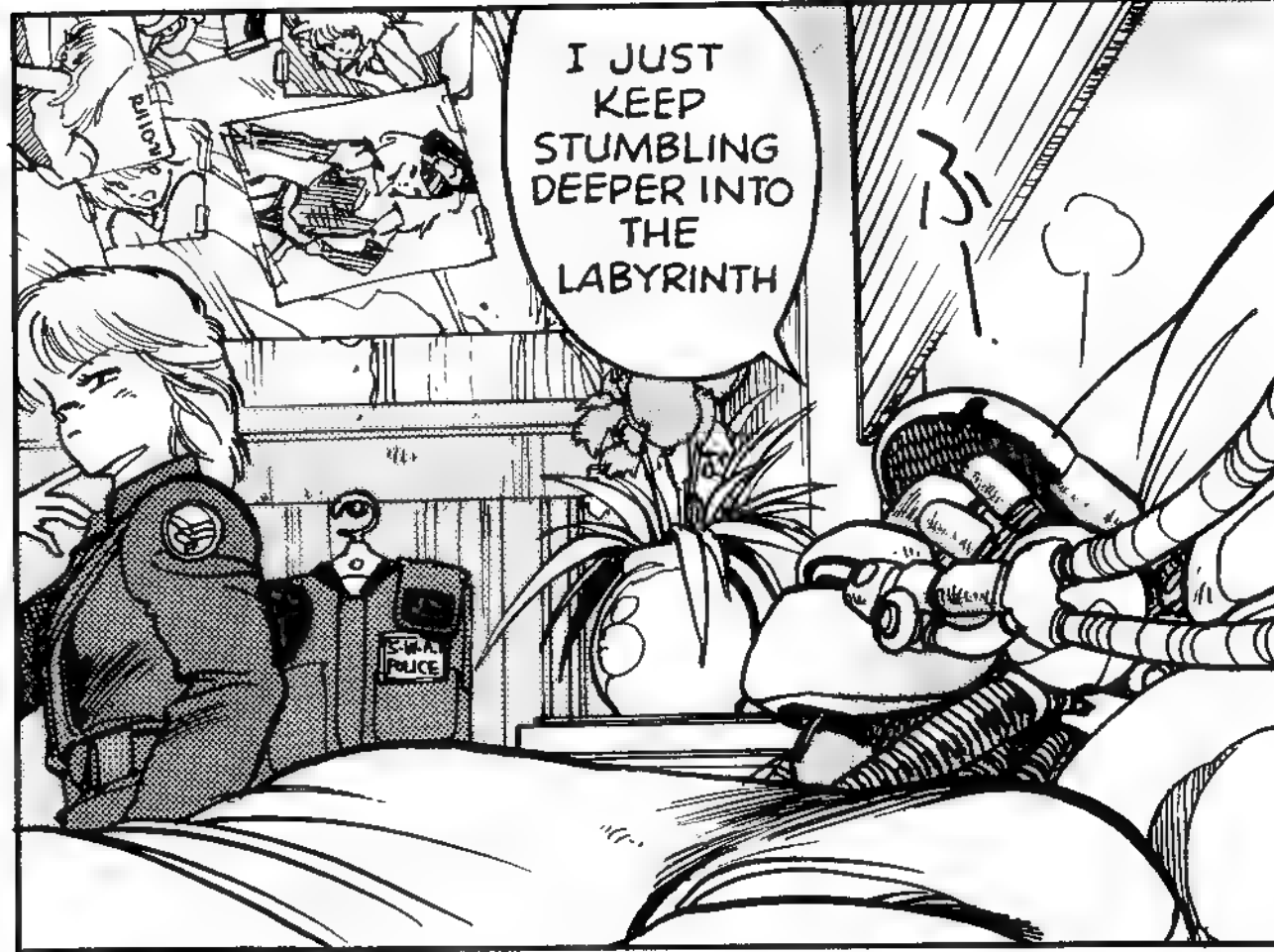


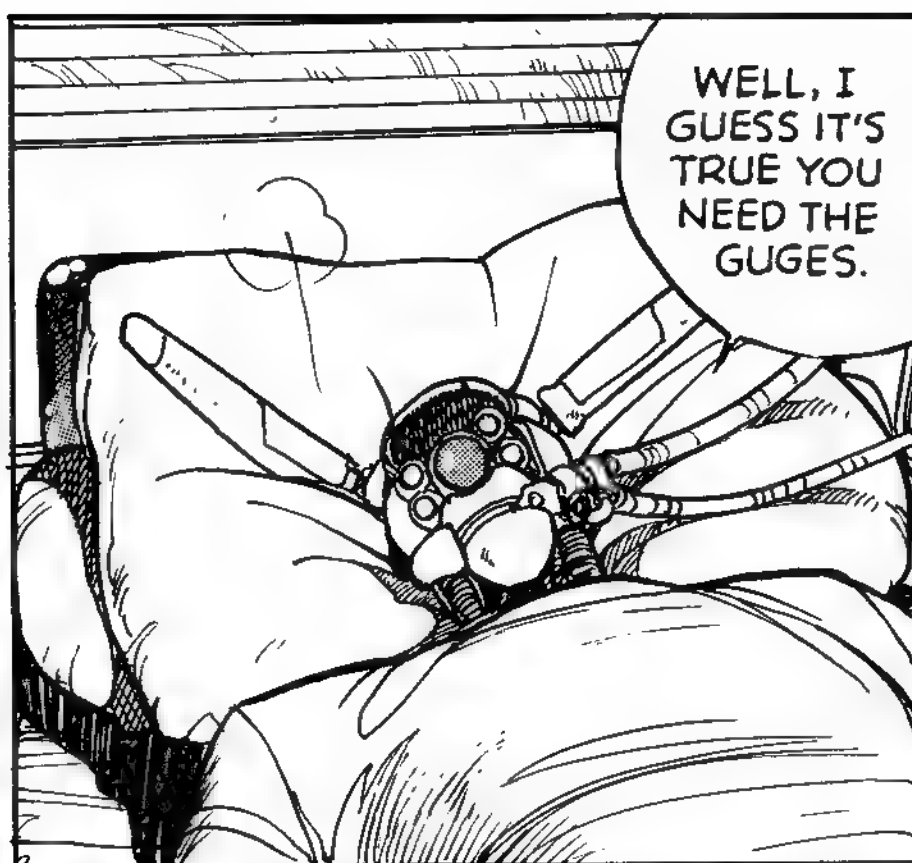


*FX WMPP (sitting on bed)

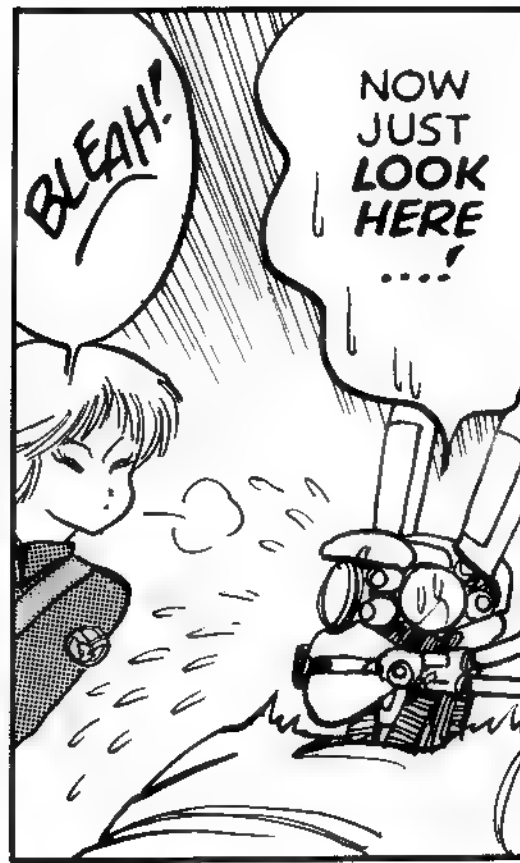


*FX SIGH





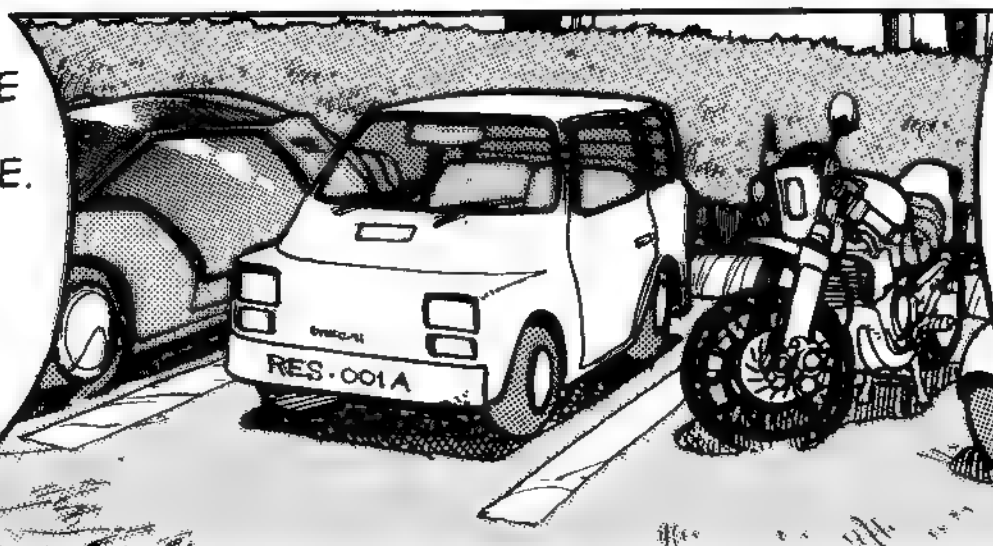
WELL, I
GUESS IT'S
TRUE YOU
NEED THE
GUGES.



BLEAH!

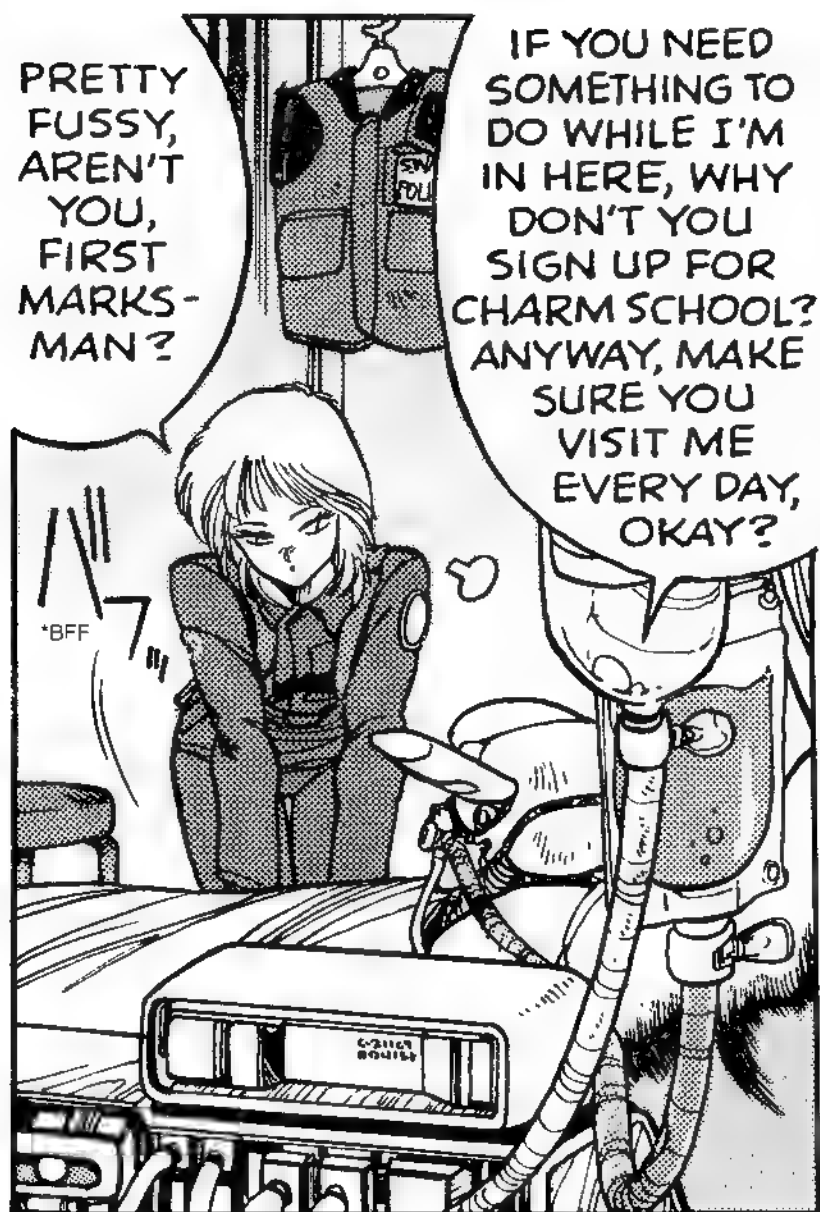
NOW
JUST
LOOK
HERE
....!

...BUT I GUESS
IT'S THE BEST CHOICE
FOR A CITY AS
BUILT UP AS THIS ONE.
OF COURSE, IF
YOU COULD JUST
BLOW AWAY ANY
BUILDING OR
WHATEVER THAT
GOT IN YOUR WAY...



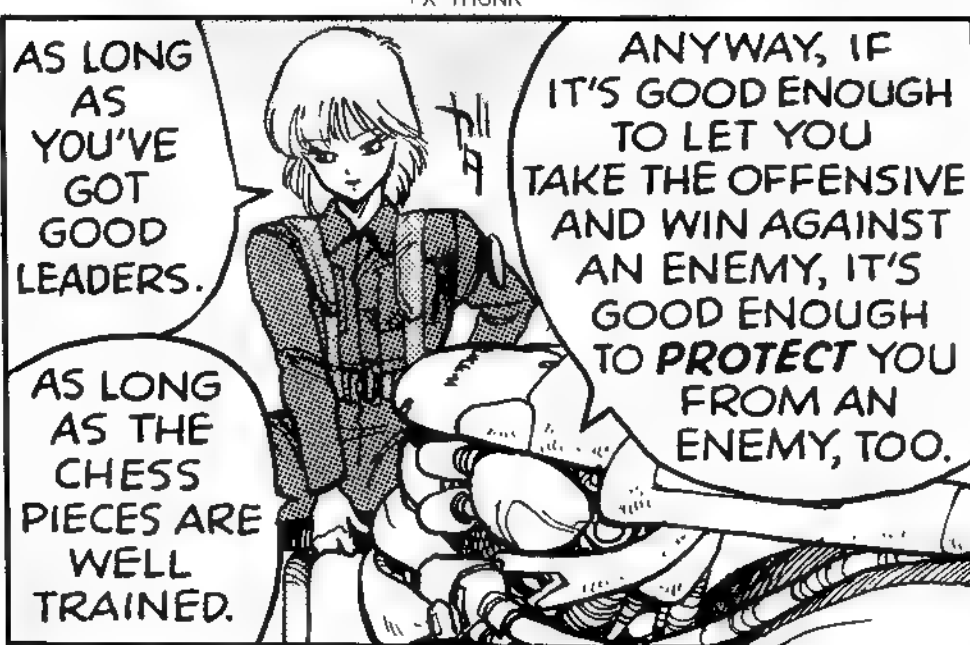
THE ARMOR
BARELY KEEPS
OUT SHRAPNEL,
IT'S ABOUT
AS NIMBLE AS
A MACK TRUCK,
ALL IT CAN
DO IS
STOMP
AROUND
...

*FX THUNK



PRETTY
FUSSY,
AREN'T
YOU,
FIRST
MARKS-
MAN?

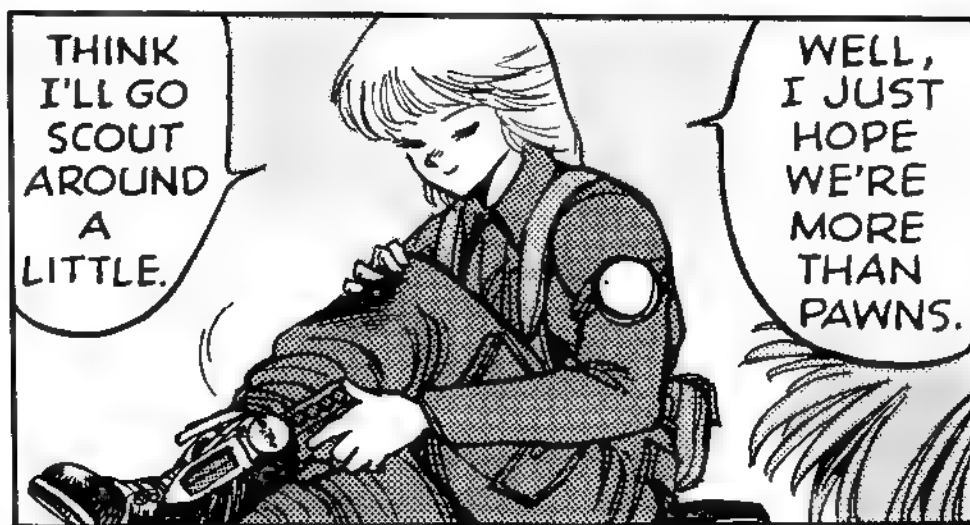
IF YOU NEED
SOMETHING TO
DO WHILE I'M
IN HERE, WHY
DON'T YOU
SIGN UP FOR
CHARM SCHOOL?
ANYWAY, MAKE
SURE YOU
VISIT ME
EVERY DAY,
OKAY?



AS LONG
AS
YOU'VE
GOT
GOOD
LEADERS.

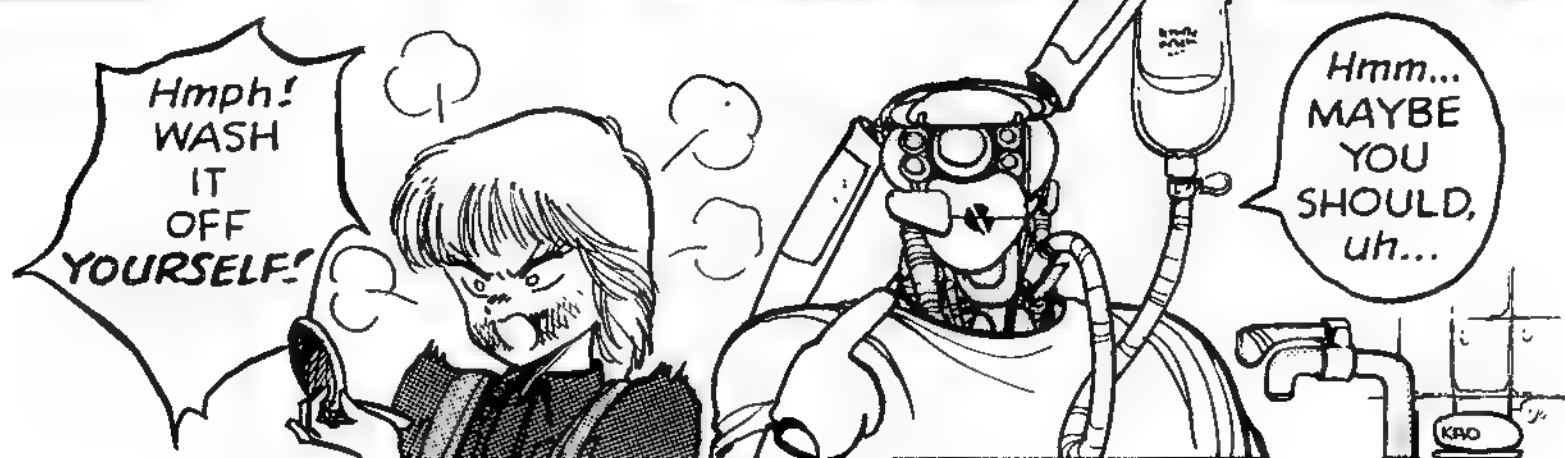
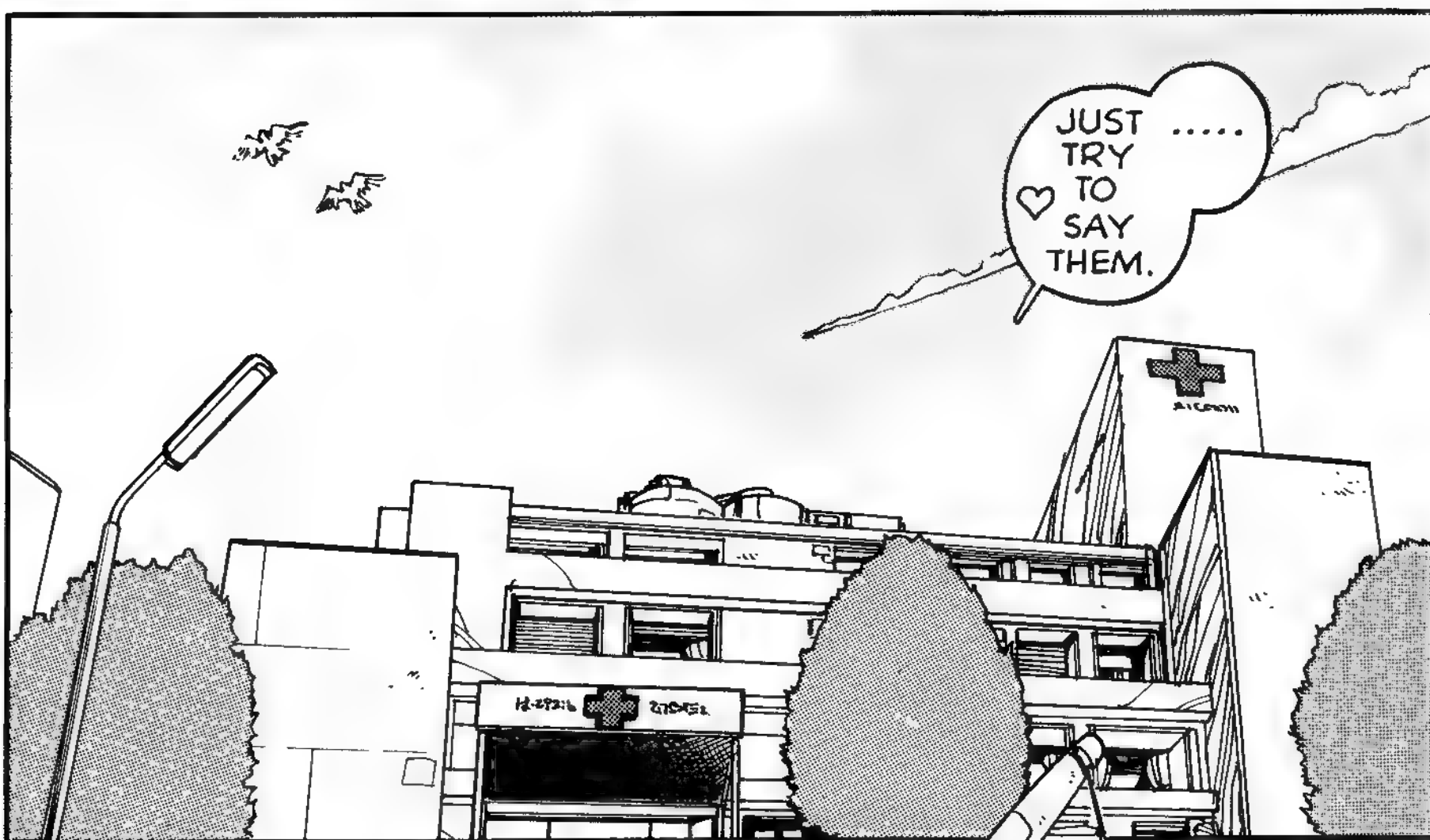
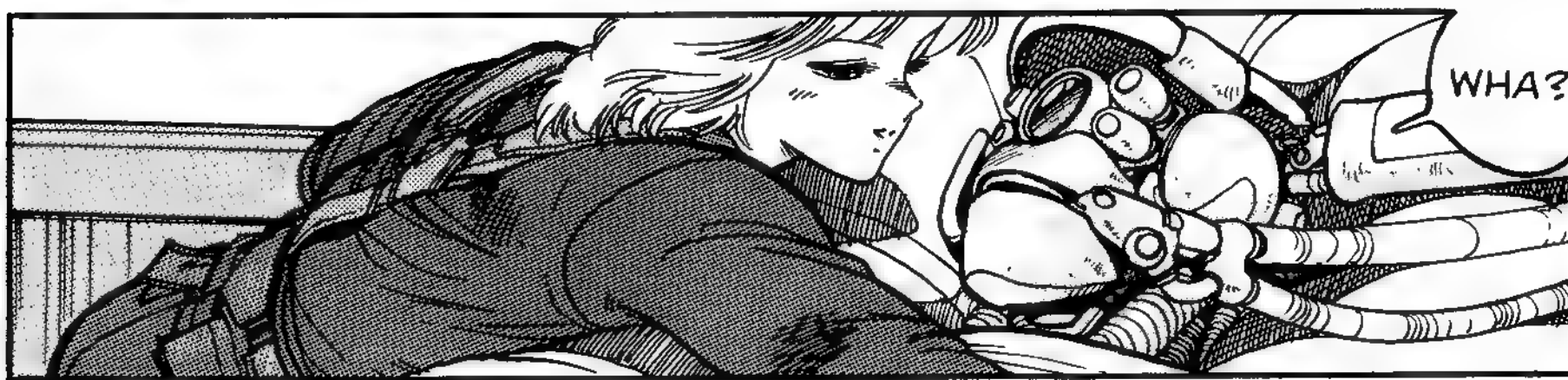
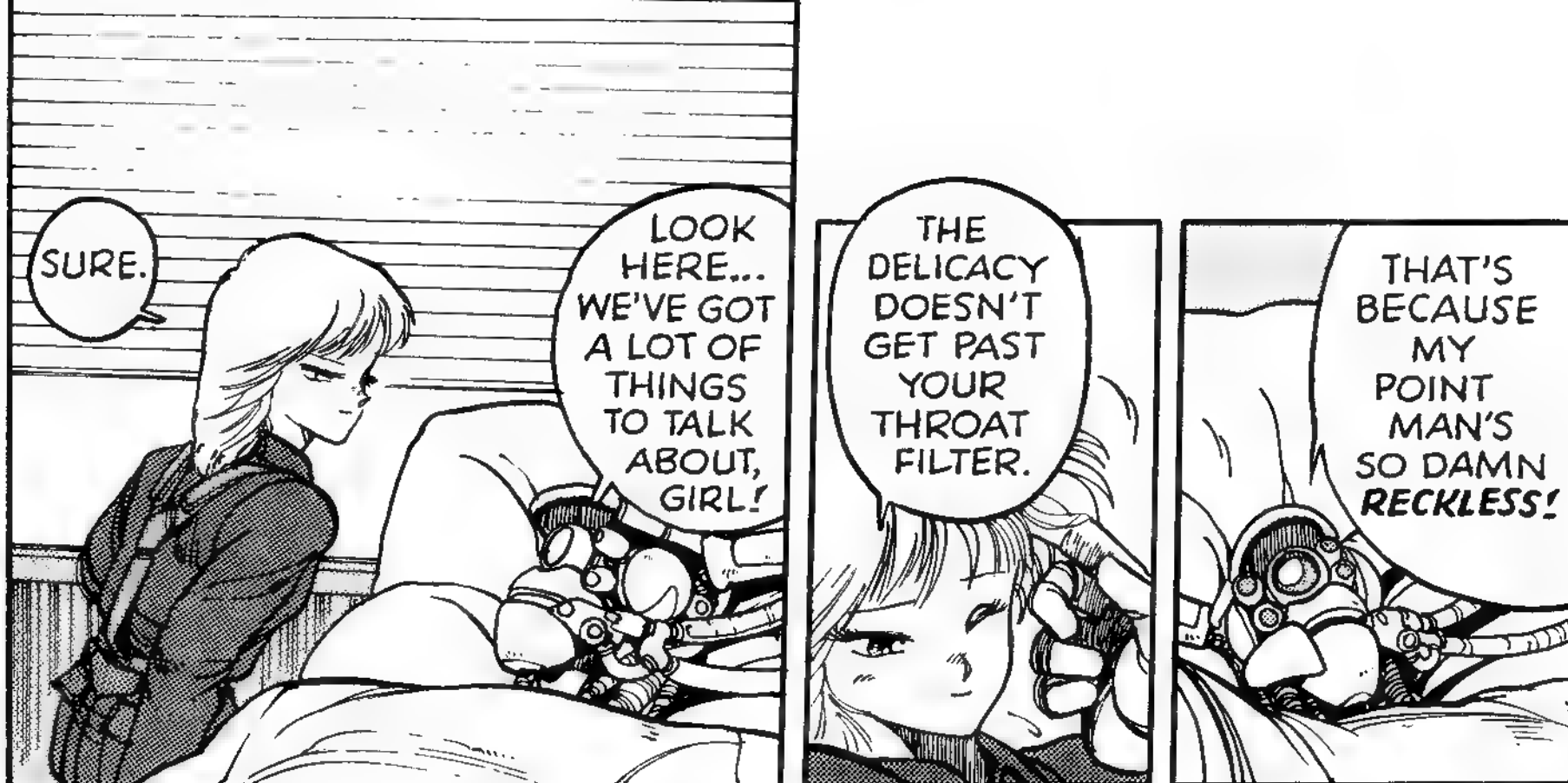
AS LONG
AS THE
CHESS
PIECES ARE
WELL
TRAINED.

ANYWAY, IF
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH
TO LET YOU
TAKE THE OFFENSIVE
AND WIN AGAINST
AN ENEMY, IT'S
GOOD ENOUGH
TO **PROTECT** YOU
FROM AN
ENEMY, TOO.

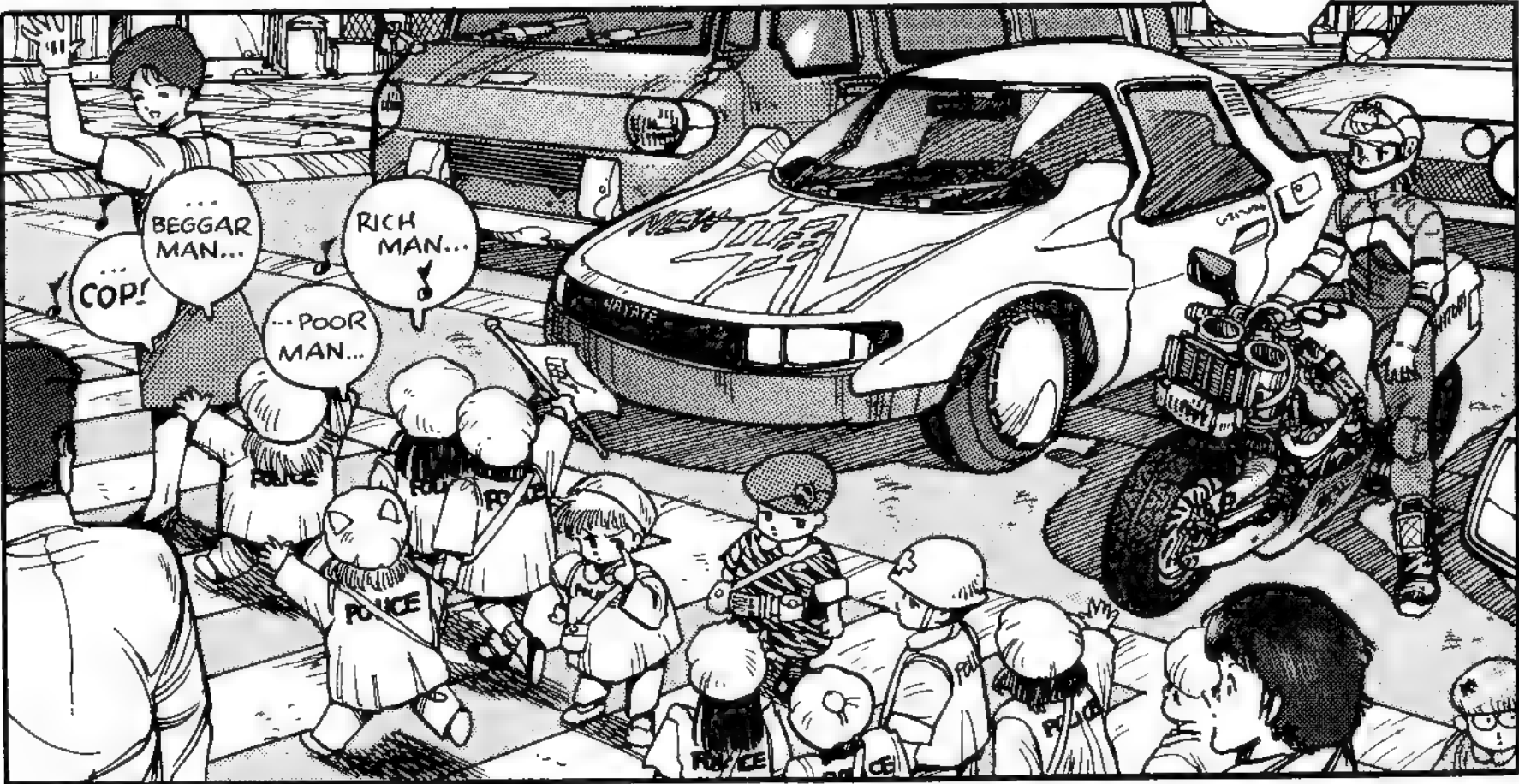
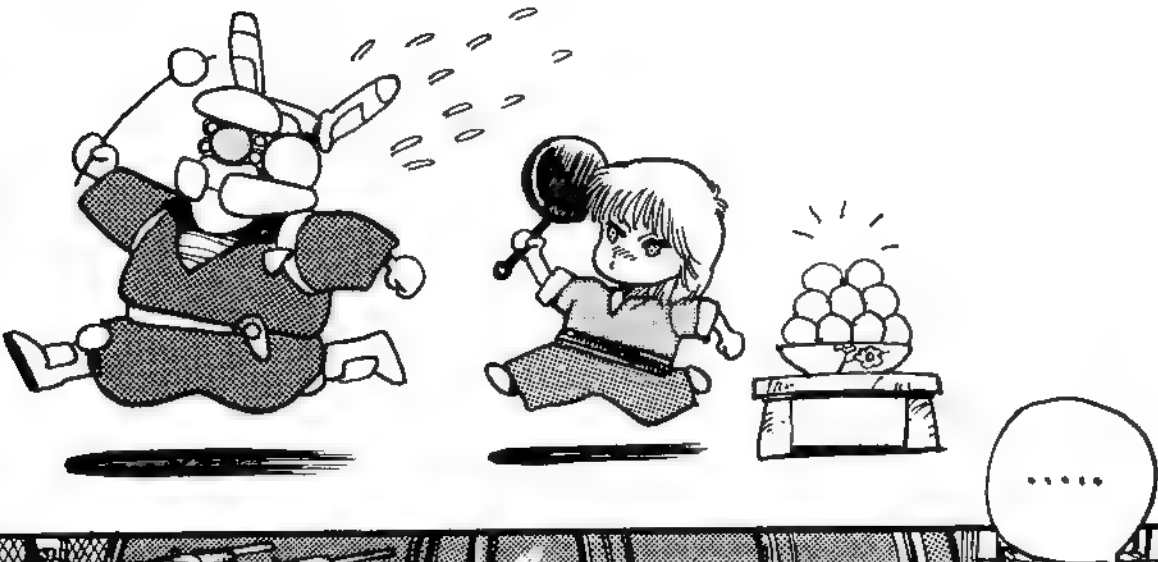


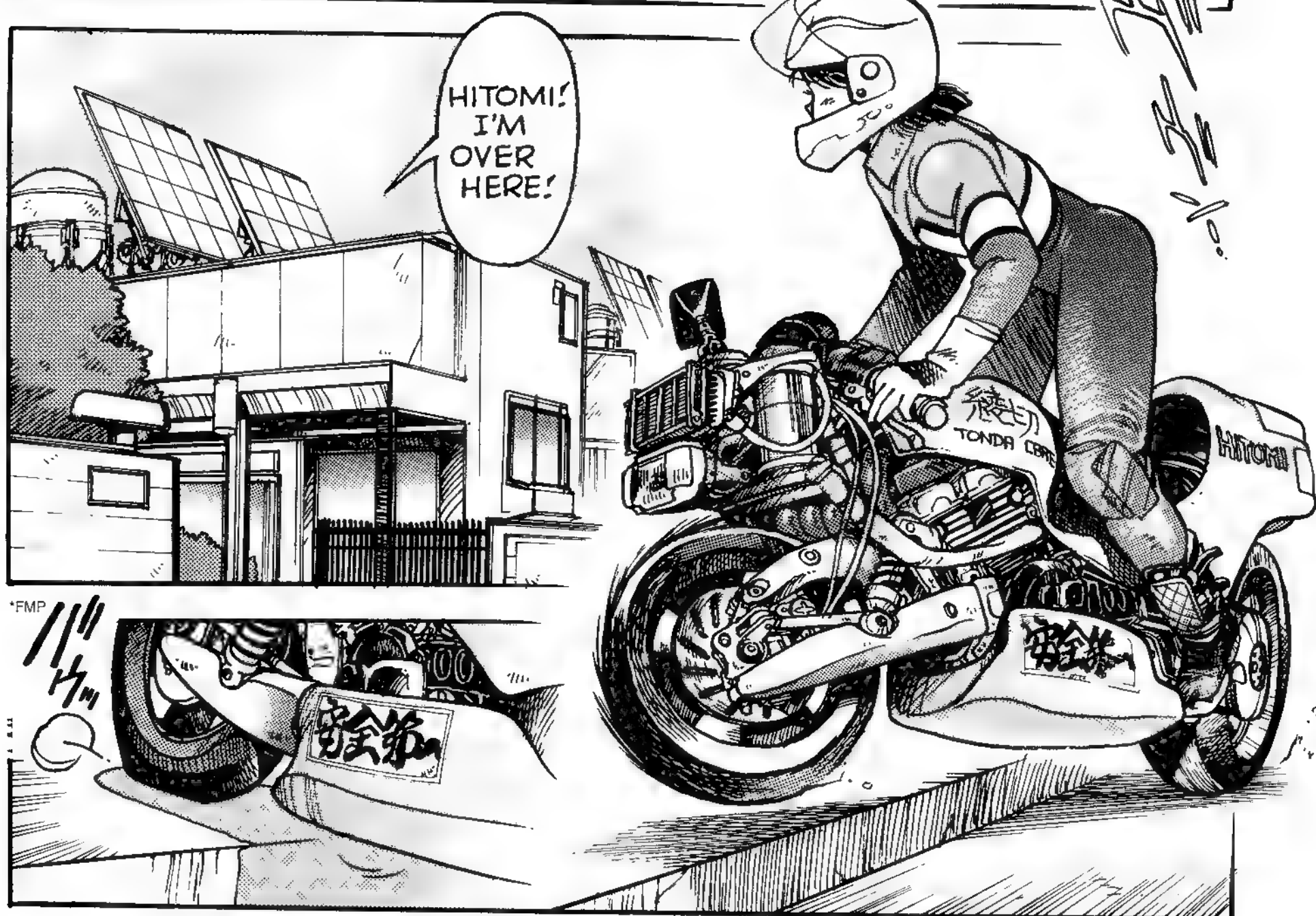
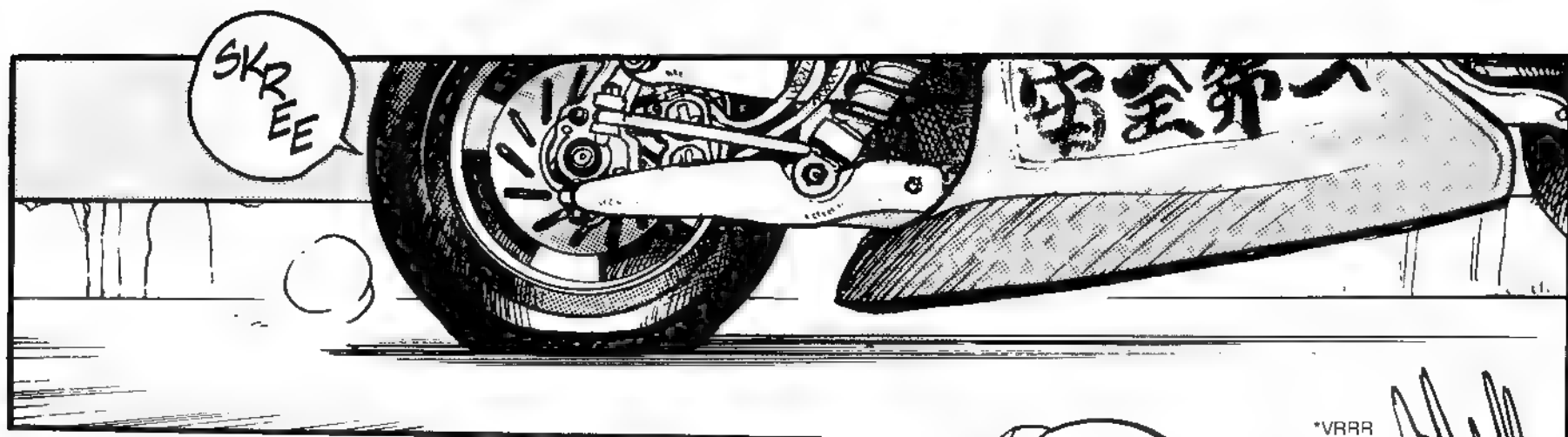
THINK
I'LL GO
SCOUT
AROUND
A
LITTLE.

WELL,
I JUST
HOPE
WE'RE
MORE
THAN
PAWNS.



APPENDIX

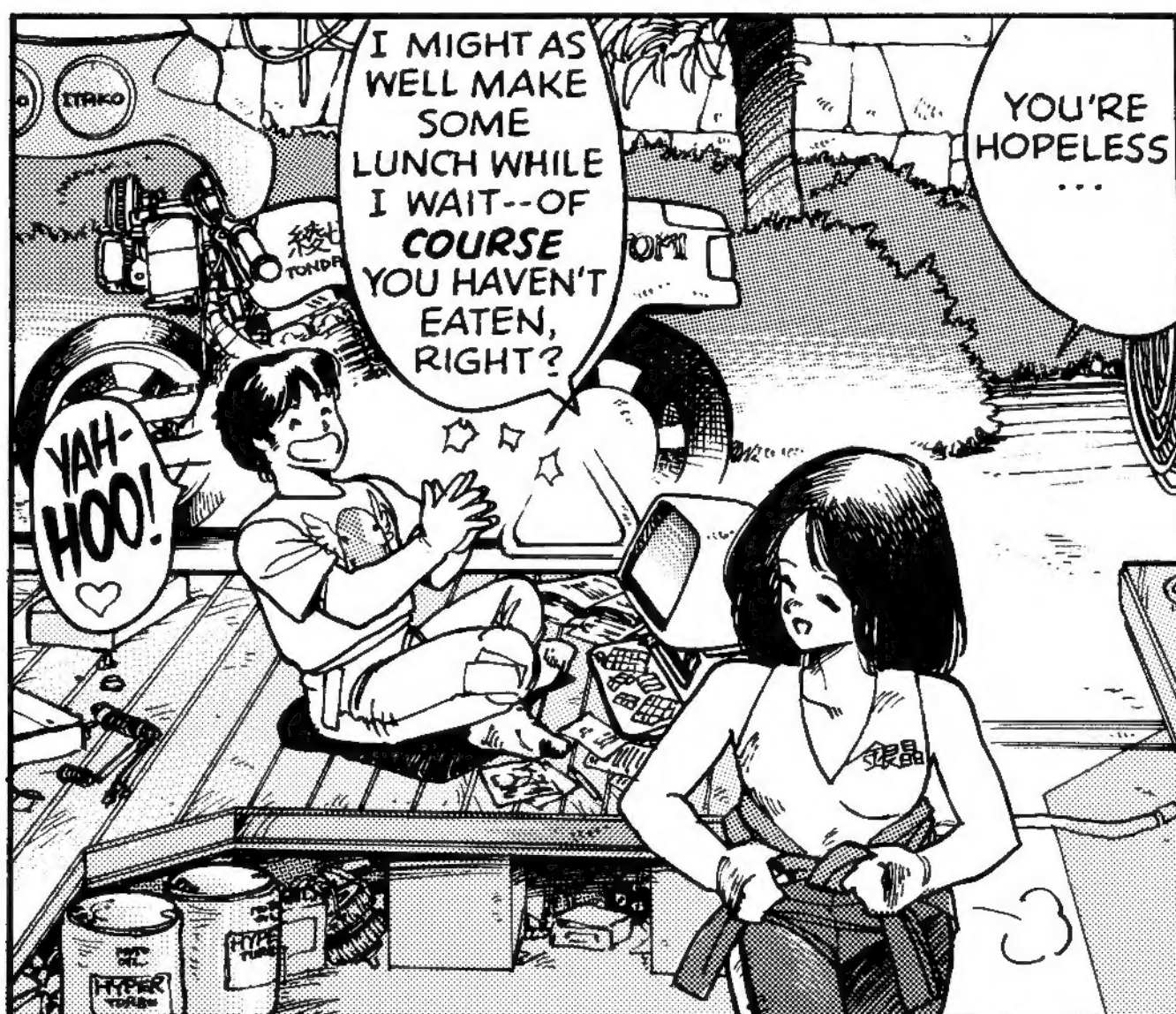
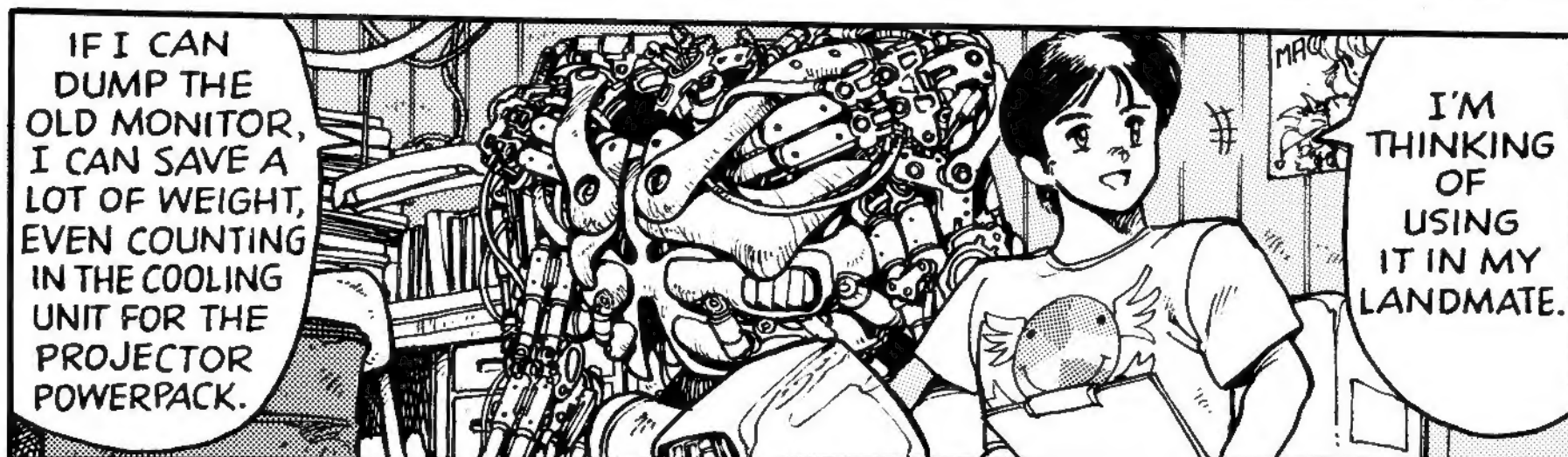
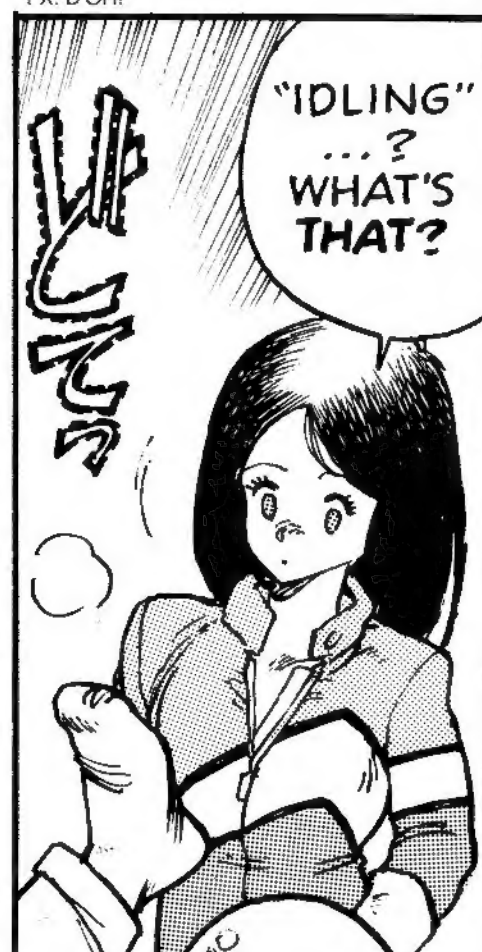


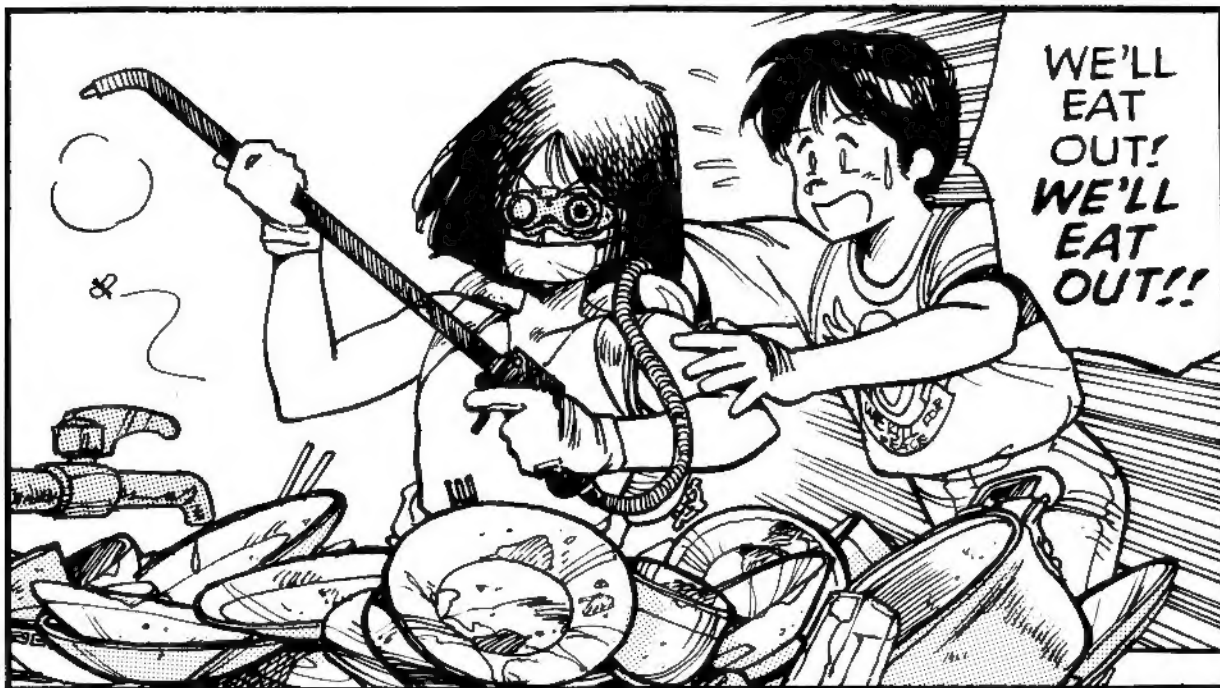


*CPG: co-pilot/gunner

*FX: KCHNK

*FX: D'OH!





WE'LL
EAT
OUT!
WE'LL
EAT
OUT!!



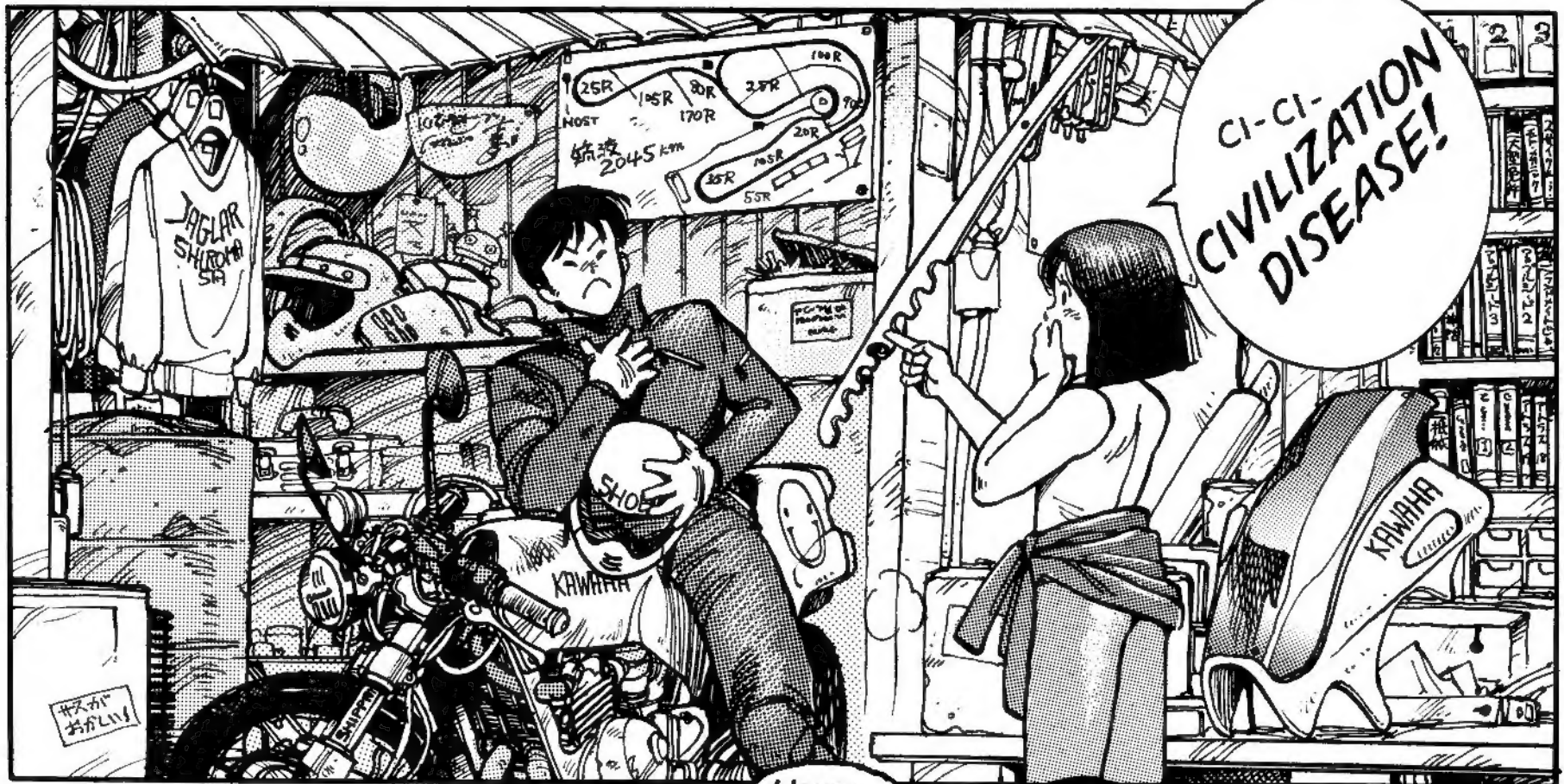
UNTIL THIS MORNING,
MY BIKE WAS IN
PIECES... AND GOING
OUT FOR SOAP AND
STUFF IS SUCH A
DRAG. ANYWAY...
THE ONLY SHOES
I'VE GOT ARE MY
CYCLE BOOTS...



MY WASHING
MACHINE AND
VACUUM ARE,
uh, ON
VACATION.



WHAT ON
EARTH DO
YOU DO WHEN
I'M NOT
AROUND?! WHAT
ABOUT YOUR
LAUNDRY?
AND THE
HOUSE-
CLEANING?!



CI-CI-
**CIVILIZATION
DISEASE!**

HAH!
"MANUAL"
DISEASE!



Umm...
IN
THIS
SITUATION,
I SHOULD
...



APPENDIX

*book: CORRECT SOCIAL INTERACTION
INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS MANUAL
FOR BIOROID HITOMI

士 郎 正 宗 THE PROMETHEAN
CHALLENGE

APPLESEED™

World War III is over, and nomad soldier Deunan Knute and her cyborg partner Briareos struggle to survive in the abandoned cities and demilitarized zones of the postwar wasteland. Matters improve when they are found and brought to Olympus, an urban utopia and centerpiece for the reconstruction of civilization. Deunan and Bri join the Olympus police, a force that seems hardly necessary in such a paradise. But perfection is an illusion, and the peaceful facade of Olympus hides a dark secret, a violent struggle between human and cyborg that could once again plunge the world into war . . . and genocide.

From *Ghost in the Shell* creator Shirow Masamune comes *Appleseed*, the epic cyberpunk vision that inspired the wildly popular animated film. *Appleseed* is now presented for the first time in America in right-to-left reading format, as originally published in Japan.

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

